SPAWN
SHADOWS OF SPAWN
VOL. 2

SPAWN

SHADOWS OF SPAWN

Juzo Tokoro

2

SHADOWS OF SPAWN VOL. 2

STORY & ART
JUZO TOKORO

LETTERING
AVALON STUDIOS

COVER
JUZO TOKORO
BRIAN HABERLIN

TRANSLATION
FRANCIS TAKENAGA

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JUZO TOKORO
PRESENTS
SHADOWS OF
SPAWN
2

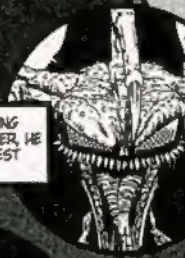
SHADOWS OF SPAWN CHARACTERS

ZOMBIE SPAWN
ゾンビ・スポーン

CHEVEYO... MYSTERIOUS WARRIOR.

MARIKO KUROSAWA
マリコ

KEN'S LITTLE SISTER, SHE'S GROWN-UP AND AT THE CUSP OF STARDOM AS THE LATEST HOLLYWOOD ACTION STAR.



VIOLATOR
バイオレーター

MALEBOLGIA'S UNDERLING AND WOULD-BE USURPER, HE NOW GUIDES THE NEWEST SPAWN, KEN.

SPAWN
スポーン/KK

KEN KUROSAWA ("KK") WILLINGLY BECAME A SPAWN IN ORDER TO RETURN TO LIFE AND PROTECT HIS SISTER. WHAT HE DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS THE DEVIL'S FORKED TONGUE...

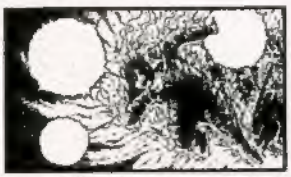
MALEBOLGIA
マレボルジア

RULER OF THE UNDERWORLD, MALEBOLGIA CONTROLS EVENTS THAT MAY SEAL THE FATES OF THE WORLD.

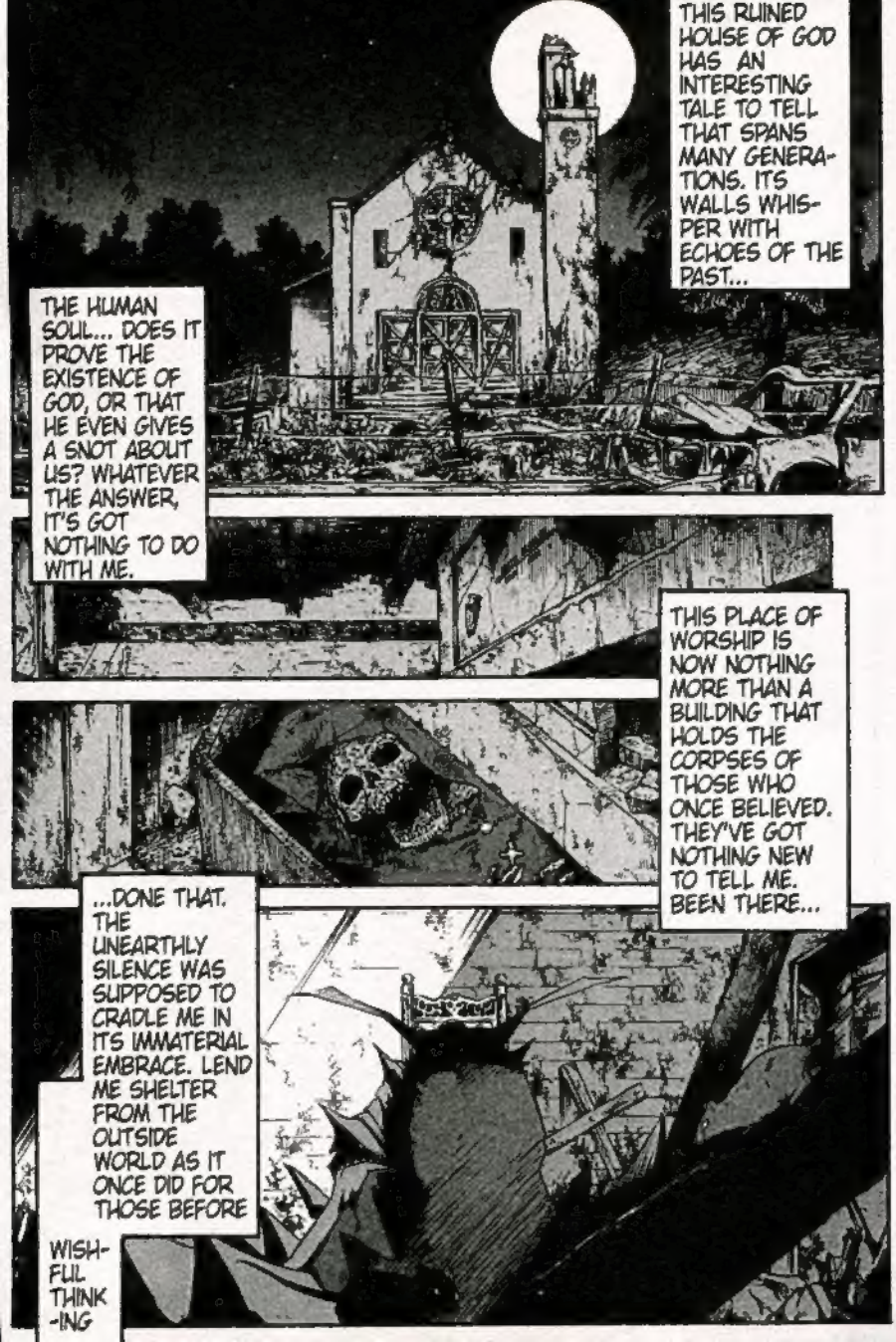
THE STORY SO FAR:

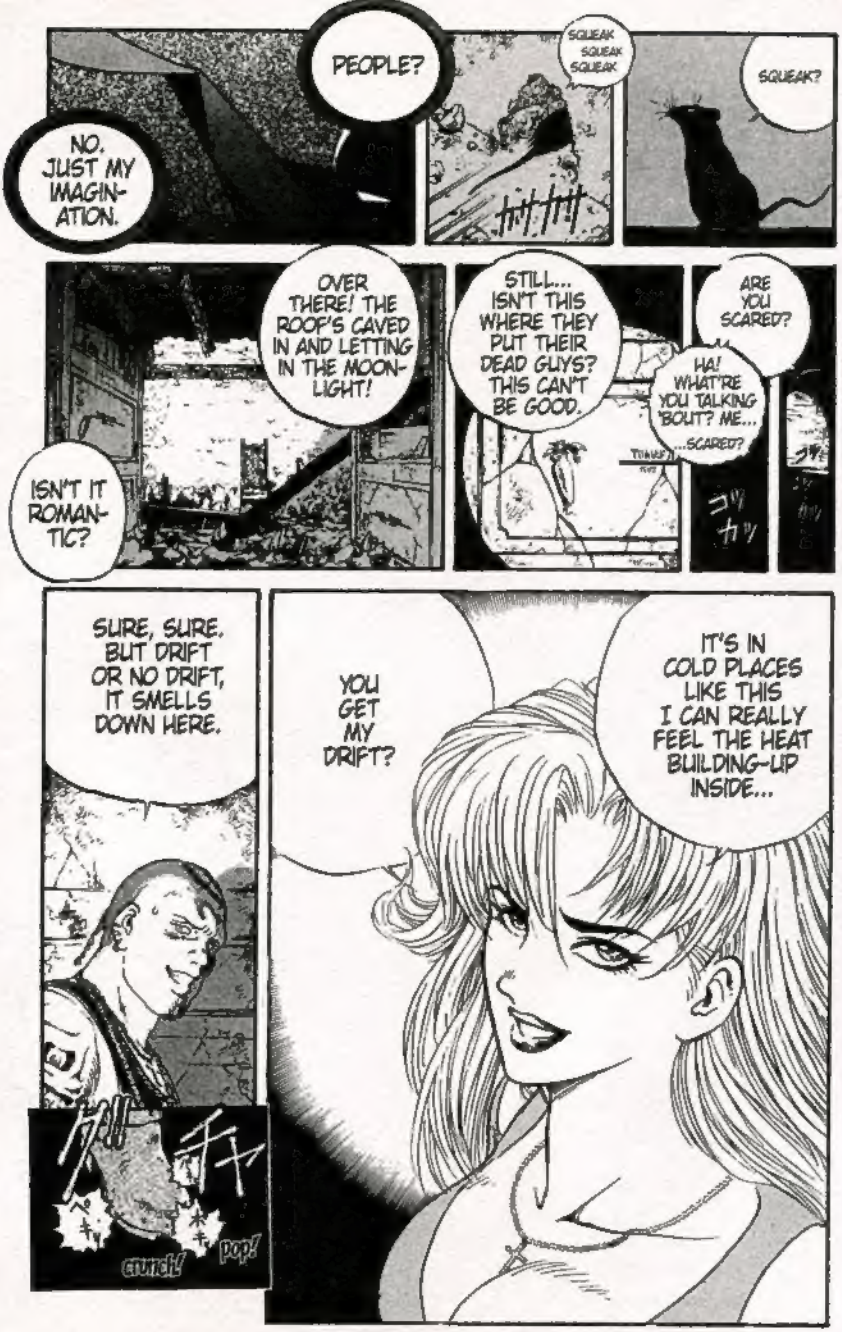
ONCE A STREET THUG FOR HIRE, ***KEN KUROSAWA*** (***"KK"***) IS ASSASSINATED IN A CAR BOMB HIT. HAVING PROMISED HIS SISTER, ***MARIKO***, THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS PROTECT HER, HE MADE A PACT WITH THE DEVIL KNOWN AS ***MALEBOLGIA*** TO BECOME HIS MINION... SELLING HIS SOUL... IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CHANCE TO FULFILL THIS PROMISE.

MALEBOLGIA KEPT HIS END OF THE BARGAIN, BUT RETURNED KEN TO LIFE ***SEVEN YEARS*** AFTER HIS DEATH! HIS SISTER NOW GROWN-UP, KEN FINDS HIMSELF EMBROILED IN A WAR BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH ITSELF. WITH THE ***VIOLATOR*** AND ***BEE*** AS HIS GUIDES, HE'S LEFT WITH FAR MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS. WHAT HE DOES QUICKLY DISCOVER IS THAT MARIKO IS IN FAR GREATER DANGER NOW THAN SHE EVER WAS BEFORE...



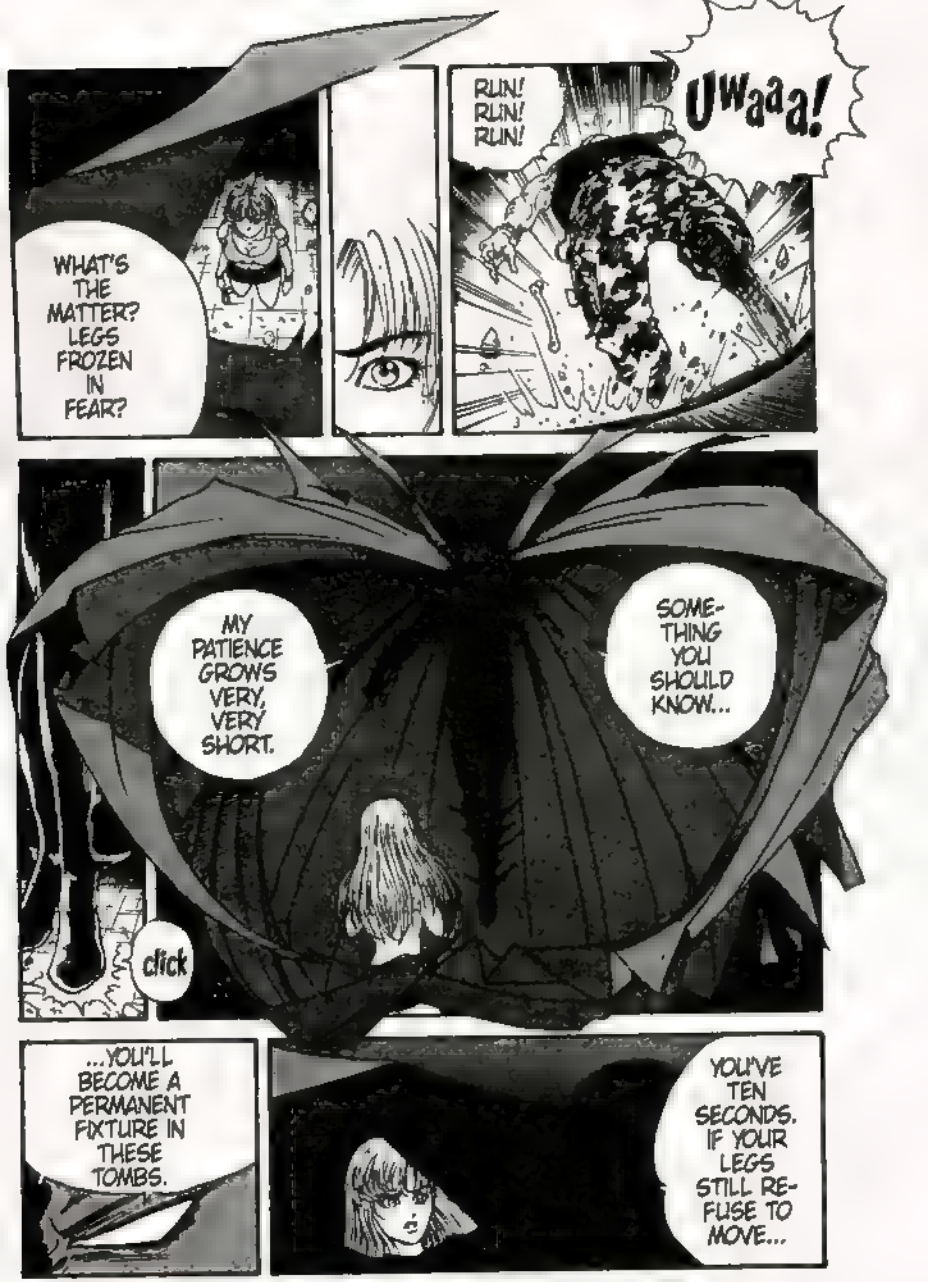
EPISODE.0 ENVOY －使者－


THIS RUINED HOUSE OF GOD HAS AN INTERESTING TALE TO TELL THAT SPANS MANY GENERATIONS. ITS WALLS WHISPER WITH ECHOES OF THE PAST...
THE HUMAN SOUL... DOES IT PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, OR THAT HE EVEN GIVES A SNOT ABOUT US? WHATEVER THE ANSWER, IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP IS NOW NOTHING MORE THAN A BUILDING THAT HOLDS THE CORPSES OF THOSE WHO ONCE BELIEVED. THEY'VE GOT NOTHING NEW TO TELL ME. BEEN THERE...
...DONE THAT. THE UNEARTHLY SILENCE WAS SUPPOSED TO CRADLE ME IN ITS IMMATERIAL EMBRACE. LEND ME SHELTER FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS IT ONCE DID FOR THOSE BEFORE
WISHFUL THINKING


PEOPLE?
NO. JUST MY IMAGIN-ATION.
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
SQUEAK?
OVER THERE! THE ROOF'S CAVED IN AND LETTING IN THE MOON-LIGHT!
ISN'T IT ROMAN-TIC?
STILL... ISN'T THIS WHERE THEY PUT THEIR DEAD GUYS? THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.
ARE YOU SCARED?
HA! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING 'BOUT? ME... ...SCARED?
SURE, SURE. BUT DRIFT OR NO DRIFT, IT SMELLS DOWN HERE.
CRUNCH!
POP!
YOU GET MY DRIFT?
IT'S IN COLD PLACES LIKE THIS I CAN REALLY FEEL THE HEAT BUILDING-UP INSIDE...

HAAA! HA! I'M JUST KIDDING. IT WAS JUST SOME CRUSTY RAT PEBBLES.
OH MY GOD!!!
EEW! YOU JUST CRUSHED WHAT'S LEFT OF SOME-ONE'S BLADDER...
I... STEPPED ON... SOME-THING...
SO YOU ARE SCARED!
H-HEY, BABE. LET'S GO GET THAT HOTEL, AFTER ALL. YOU KNOW THE DOORMAN, RIGHT?
ktak
EEP!
Shing!
LEAVE THIS PLACE, NOW!
EEEEEK!
LEAVE!

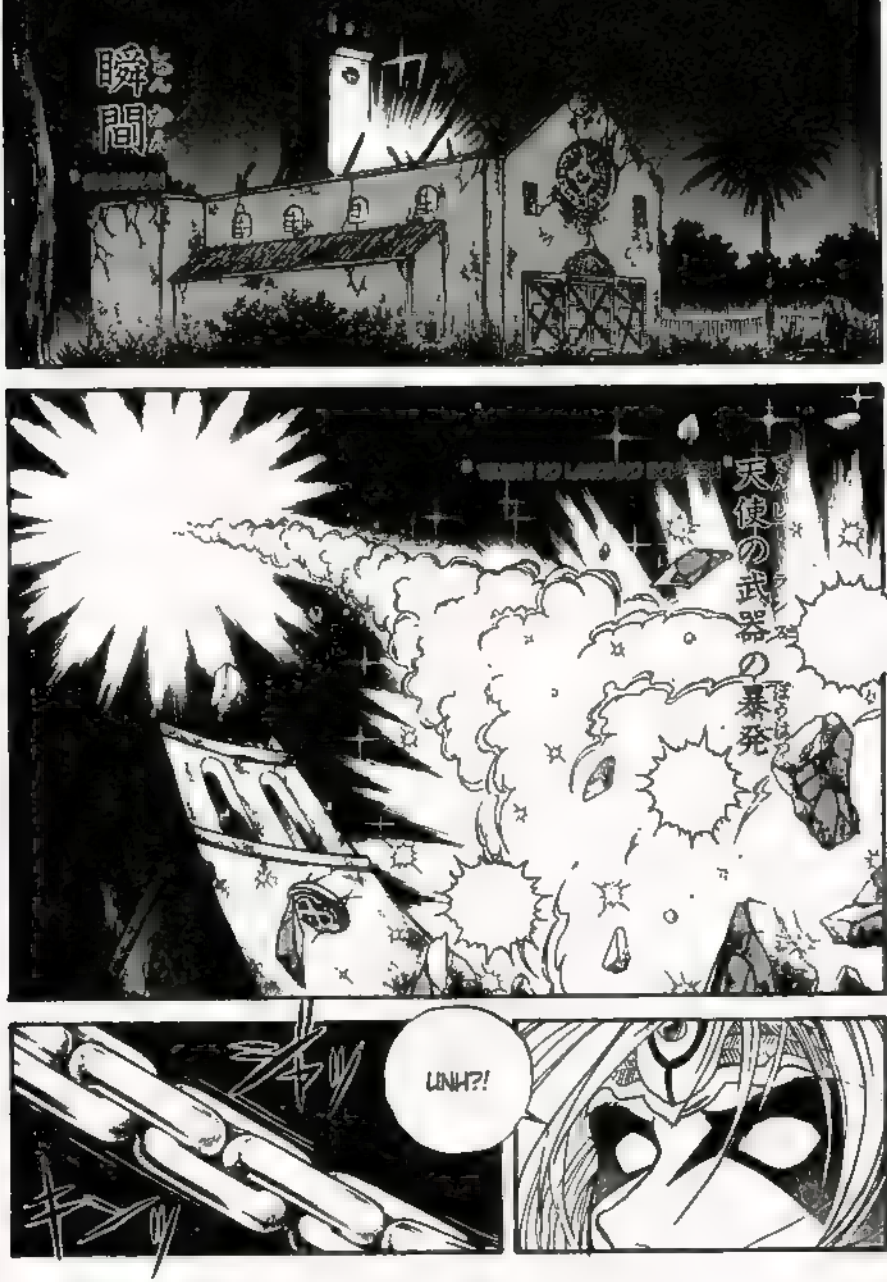
THIS IS NOT A PLACE FOR JUNKIES AND HOOKERS.
REMOVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS PLACE, NOW!
GHOOOST!


WHAT'S THE MATTER? LEGS FROZEN IN FEAR?
RUN! RUN! RUN!
Uwaaa!
MY PATIENCE GROWS VERY, VERY SHORT.
SOME-THING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
click
...YOU'LL BECOME A PERMANENT FIXTURE IN THESE TOMBS.
YOU'VE TEN SECONDS. IF YOUR LEGS STILL RE-FUSE TO MOVE...

?
YES?
AND THAT'S YOUR FINAL OFFER?
Shoom!
LANCE!
WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT AND SHOW ME YOUR REAL FACE, EH--
ALL JOKING SIDE...

MR. HELL-SPAWN OF LOS ANGELES!

WHO... ARE... YOU?
?
?
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME ON SILLY GREETINGS. WE'LL BE PARTING WAYS FAR TOO SOON, AFTER ALL.
tchak!
JUST TAKING A LOOOONG TRIP ACROSS THE GREAT BEYOND. THAT'S ALL.
DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE.


瞬間
天使の武器の暴発
UNH?!

HNGH!
THERE... THERE WAS ANOTHER?
WHAT?!
HEH, HEH, HEH. DON'T BE DOING SOMETHING BAD TO MY VERY IMPORTANT PARTNER, THERE.
MY PARTNER IS...
LET'S HAVE THOSE RIBBONS BEHAVE THEMSELVES!
WHOA THERE!

A BIT DELICATE. BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO BE DELICIOUS, ANGEL GIRL!
A- ANGEL?!

I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET THE CHANCE TO EAT YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEART OUT!
FANCY MEETING YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, MIKAELA!
YOU! 'IOLATOR?!
YOU LOOK LIKE HIM...
...IF A BIT SMALLER THAN I REMEMBER...
WHO'S THE PRETTY LADY?
HEY.
THERE WERE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.
DON'T SAY THAT!
...FROM SUCH A TENDER BOSOM!
TEE-HEE-HEE
'SPECIALLY ONE THAT COMES...
QUESTIONS AFTER I EAT! OOOOOH! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DEVOUR AN ANGEL'S HEART.

AGHAA!
MEANS THEY'LL LISTEN TO ME OVER YOU.
THESE CHAINS SIDE WITH THE MORAL RIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!?!
WHAT--?!
WE'RE NATURAL BORN ENEMIES!
IDIOT! WHAT'S A SPAWN GOING TO DO WITH A SAVED ANGEL?

BUT YOU JUST COMMITTED A BIG NO-NO.
AREN'T WE A TENDER-FOOT?
EATING SOMEONE'S HEART WHILE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE ISN'T MY STYLE. THAT'S ALL.
NATURAL BORN ENEMIES OR NOT, I DON'T MUCH CARE.
..."SAVED" ME.
YOU, A SPAWN...
...AND THREW ITS TATTERED REMAINS BACK IN MY FACE!
YOU TOOK MY PRIDE...
PRIDE?
FOR THAT, I WILL NOT FORGIVE.

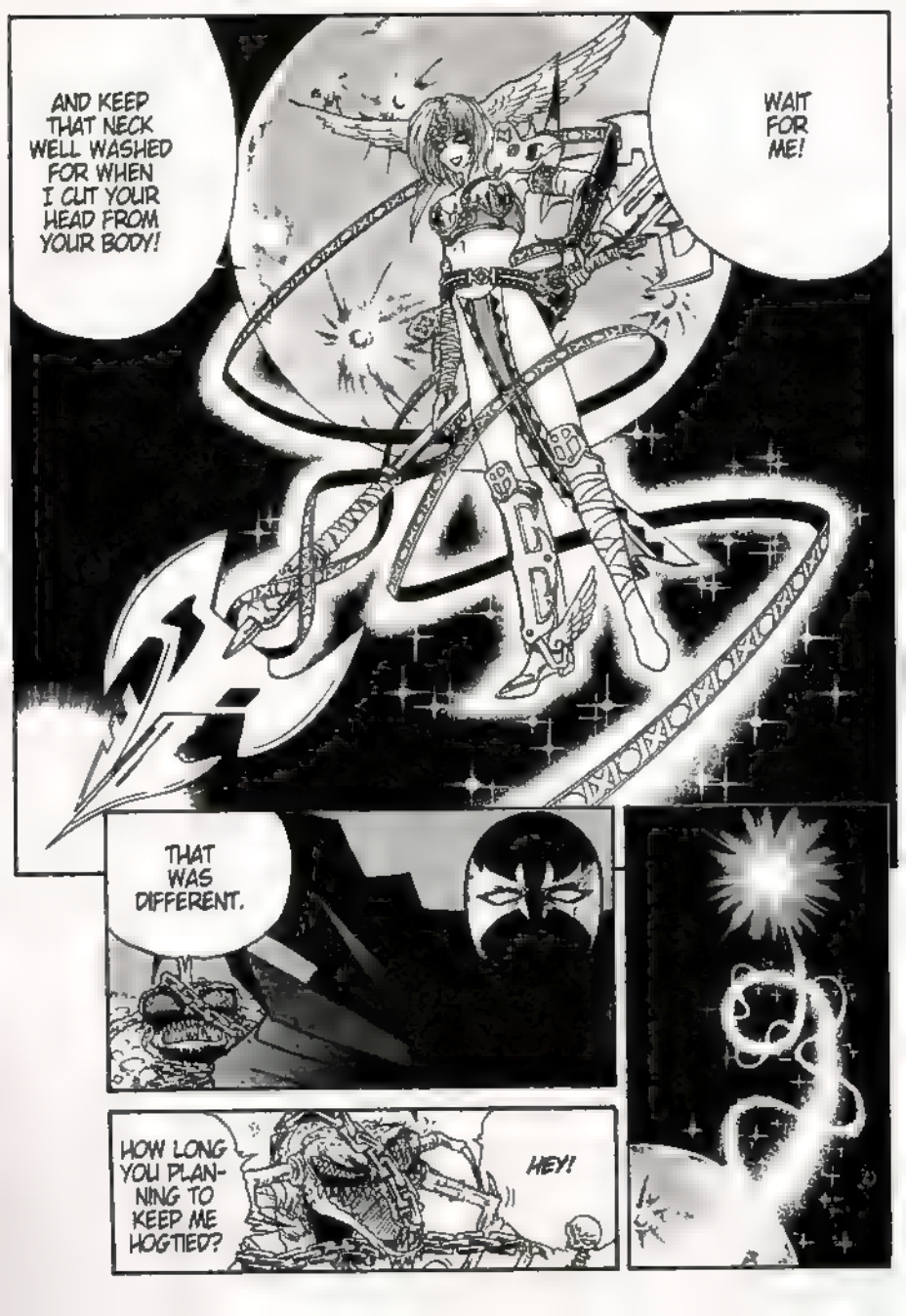
WHERE'S THE PRIDE IN THAT?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. AND EVEN IF I DID, I'M UNARMED.
FINE.
shing!
HA!
TAKE THIS!
FREELANCE SPAWN HUNTER!
MY NAME IS MIKAELA!

...I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE ASS-KICKING OF ANY LIFE-TIME!
BEFORE I BANISH YOU TO THE VOID...
SO...
..ANY MORE COM-PLAINTS?!

YOU'RE ONE EGO-TISTICAL "ANGEL."
HNH!
YOU STILL WHINING?
THE RIFF-RAFF THEY TAKE-IN THESE DAYS...
WHAT?!
HA! YOU WON'T GET A GOOD FIGHT OUT OF HIM THAT WAY! HE'S A DOOF WITH THE SWORD!
YOU HEAR ME BITCH-ING?
BARE HANDS...
YOU WANT A FIGHT TO BE PROUD OF? HE'S A KARATE-MAN. BARE HANDS ARE YOUR WEAPONS!
THIS AIN'T THE MIDDLE AGES, MIKAELA. SWORDS AND LANCES WENT THE WAY OF THE DO-DO.

DANCING WITH AN ANGEL ON HER TURF!
WHOA-HO! LOOKEE AT THE LITTLE MAN GO!
"KARATE."

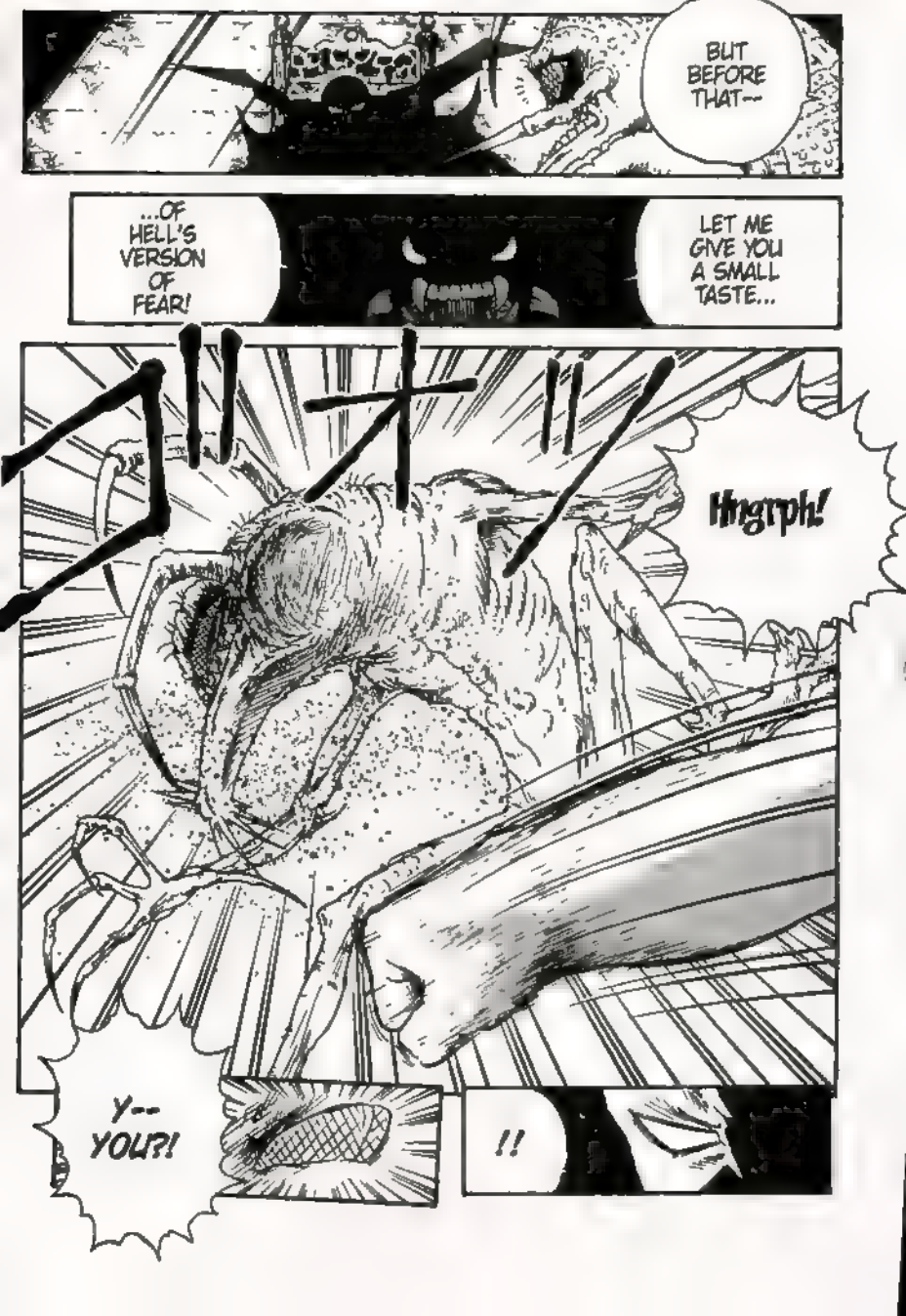
ALAS, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS FIGHTING ART.
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO LEARN THIS "KARATE" FOR OUR NEXT MEETING... IF I WANT A REAL FIGHT!
STUPID BOY. TRIES TO BE ALL FANCY AND SHOW-OFF. HAS TO BE THE SHORTEST FIGHT IN RECENT SPAWN-ANGEL HISTORY... -SIGH-
THERE'S ALWAYS--
HEY!

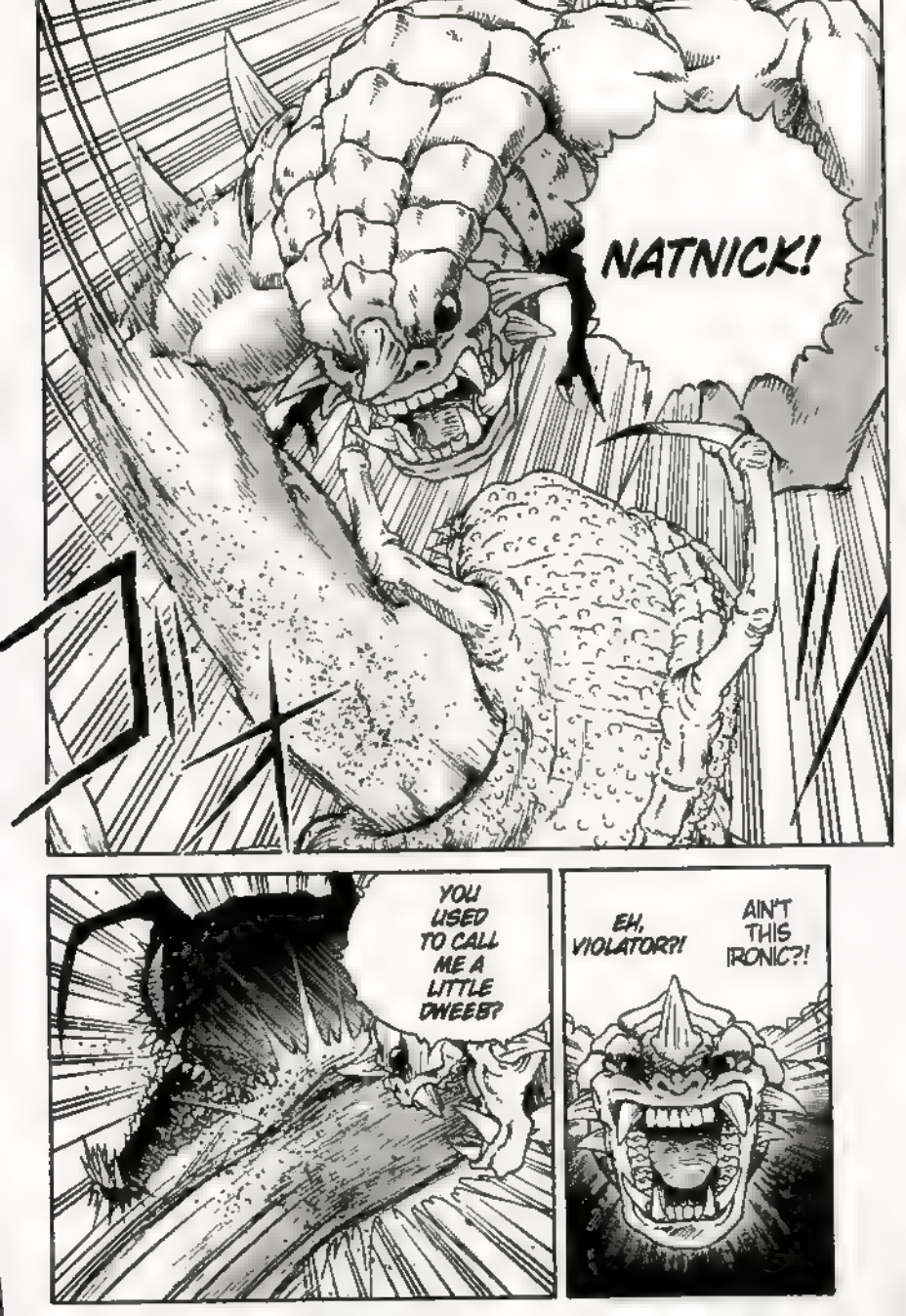

AND KEEP THAT NECK WELL WASHED FOR WHEN I CUT YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR BODY!
WAIT FOR ME!
THAT WAS DIFFERENT.
HOW LONG YOU PLANNING TO KEEP ME HOGTIED?
HEY!

I'M A TROPHY TO ASCEND AN ANGEL'S RANK.
THAT COMES AS NO SURPRISE.
AFTER ALL, I AM A CREATION OF HELL...
WHAT DID SURPRISE ME WAS HER TENACITY.
MY INTENTIONS WERE NOT TO SAVE AN ANGEL.
BUT THIS BODY... IT WANTED TO FIGHT ITS "NATURAL ENEMY."

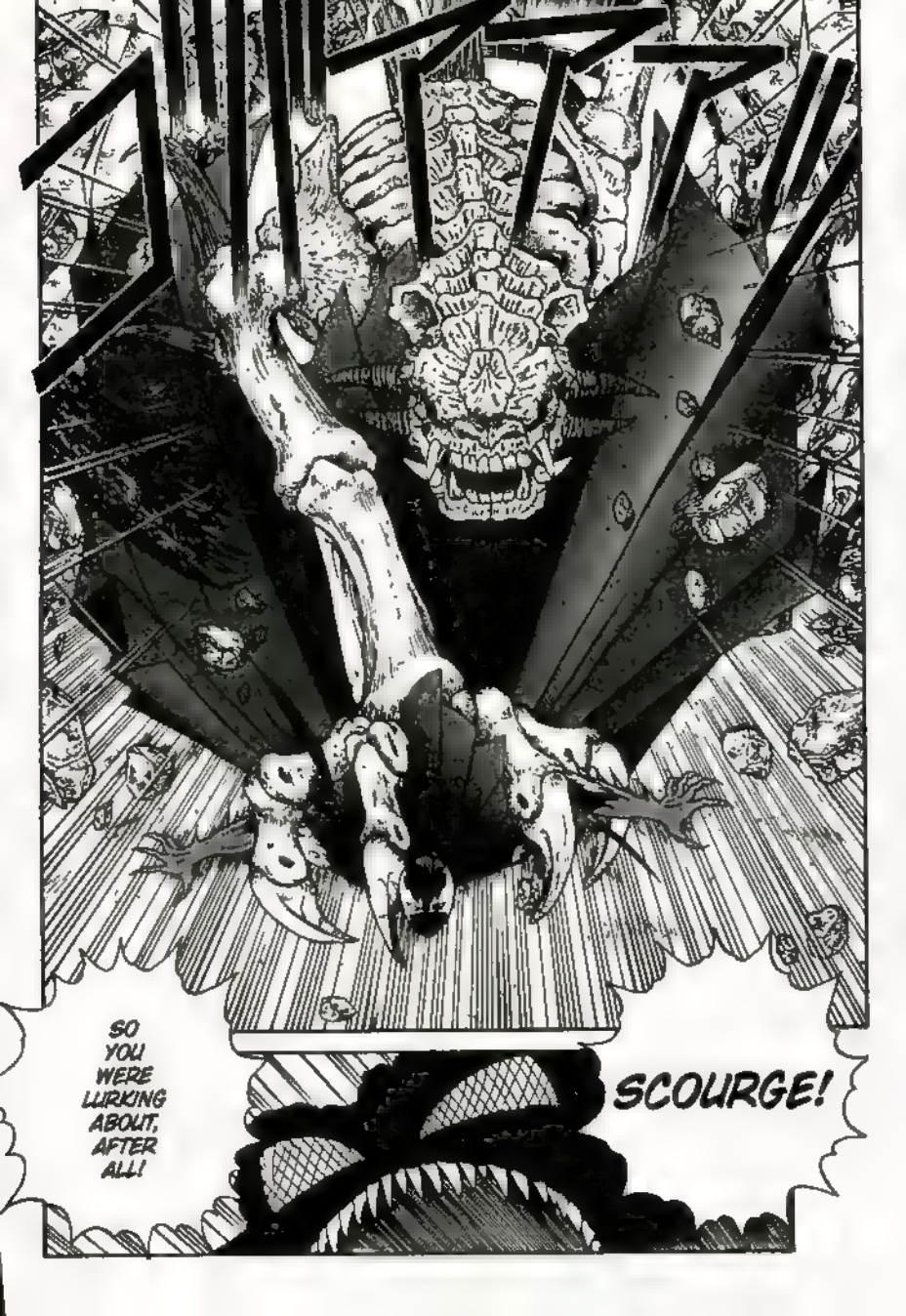
I SACRIFICED MY ONLY SOUL IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.
GAVE IT WILLINGLY TO THE SOULLESS TO RETURN TO LIFE.
WHAT I GOT IN RETURN WAS *NOT* LIFE.
ZZZZ
MY FATE IS TO DO BATTLE.
THAT'S ALL.
HAVING SAID THAT...
...SEEMS I'M NOW RELIANT ON THE MOST GODFORSAKEN CREATURE THIS SIDE OF DEATH.

THAT TROUBLE-SOME WOMAN?
DO YOU EVEN REALIZE WHAT KIND OF AN OPPONENT YOU JUST MADE IN THAT GIRL?
WHEN SHE BECAME "FREELANCE" IS A MYSTERY EVEN TO ME... BUT OH, SHE MUST BE QUITE TASTY--
LISTEN! SHE'S ONE OF THE HEAVIER HITTERS AMONGST THE ANGELS, AND YOU'RE HER NEW MARK.
...YOU'RE AFRAID OF LITTLE ANGELS, TOO.
SO...
ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, YOU'D HAVE BEEN SINGING WITH THEM HARPIES.
LISTEN, SHE'S *TOYING* WITH YOU! *GET REAL!*


BUT BEFORE THAT--
...OF HELL'S VERSION OF FEAR!
LET ME GIVE YOU A SMALL TASTE...
Hngrph!
Y-- YOU?!
!!


NATNICK!
YOU USED TO CALL ME A LITTLE DWEEB?
EH, VIOLATOR?!
AIN'T THIS IRONIC?!

WHO'S THE LITTLE DWEEB, NOW?!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
...WHERE THIS LITTLE FREAK IS AT, THERE'S GOTTA BE--
D-DON'T GET COCKY, KID...
OLD PLAY-GROUND BUDDY?
WHAT IS THAT THING?
WHAT'S RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT!


SO YOU WERE LURKING ABOUT, AFTER ALL!
SCOURGE!

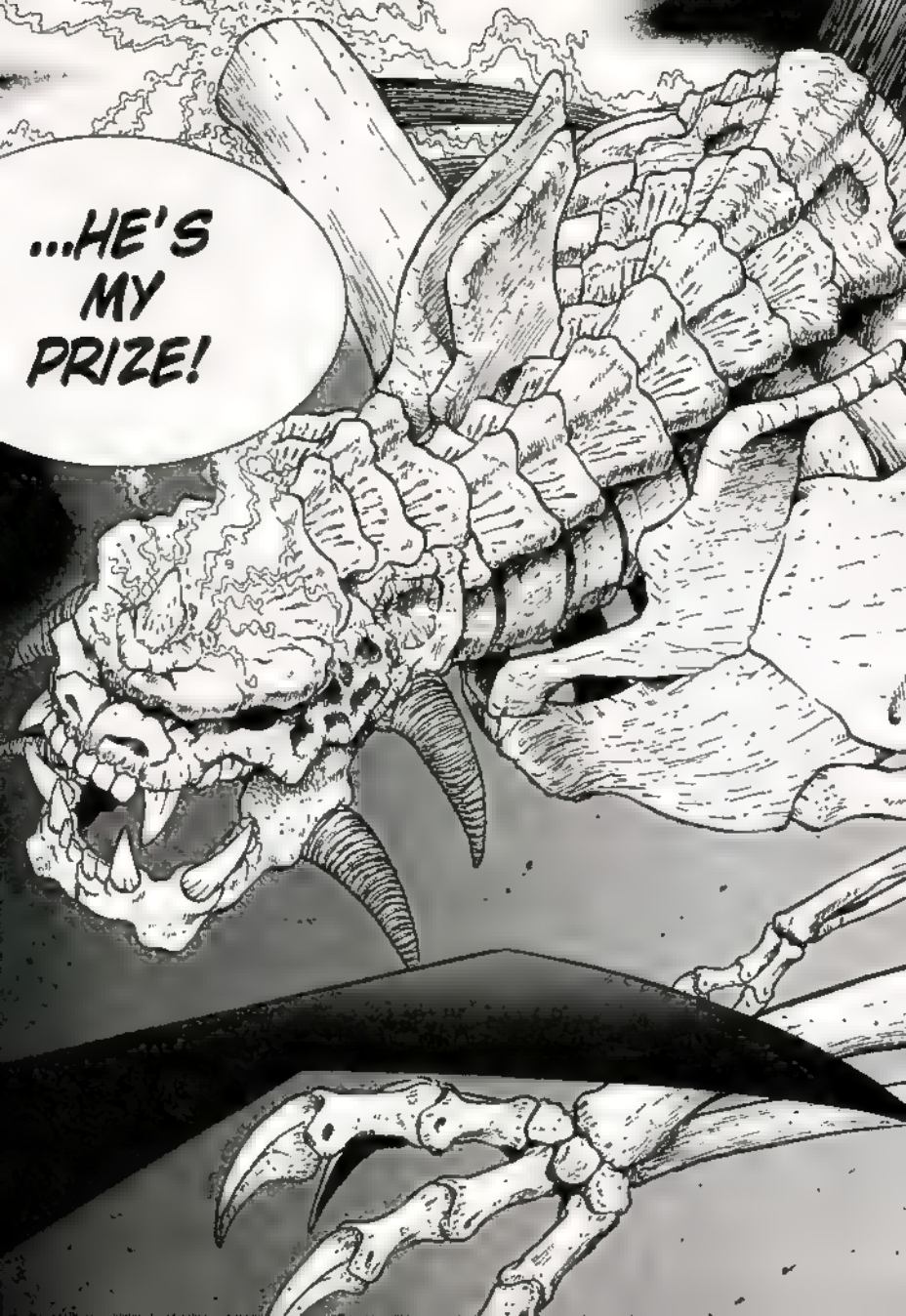
AT THIS LEVEL, HE'S GOT NO CHANCE...
NOT GOOD...
...JUST ONE BLOW EVEN INCAPACITATED THE COSTUME...
ONE BLOW...

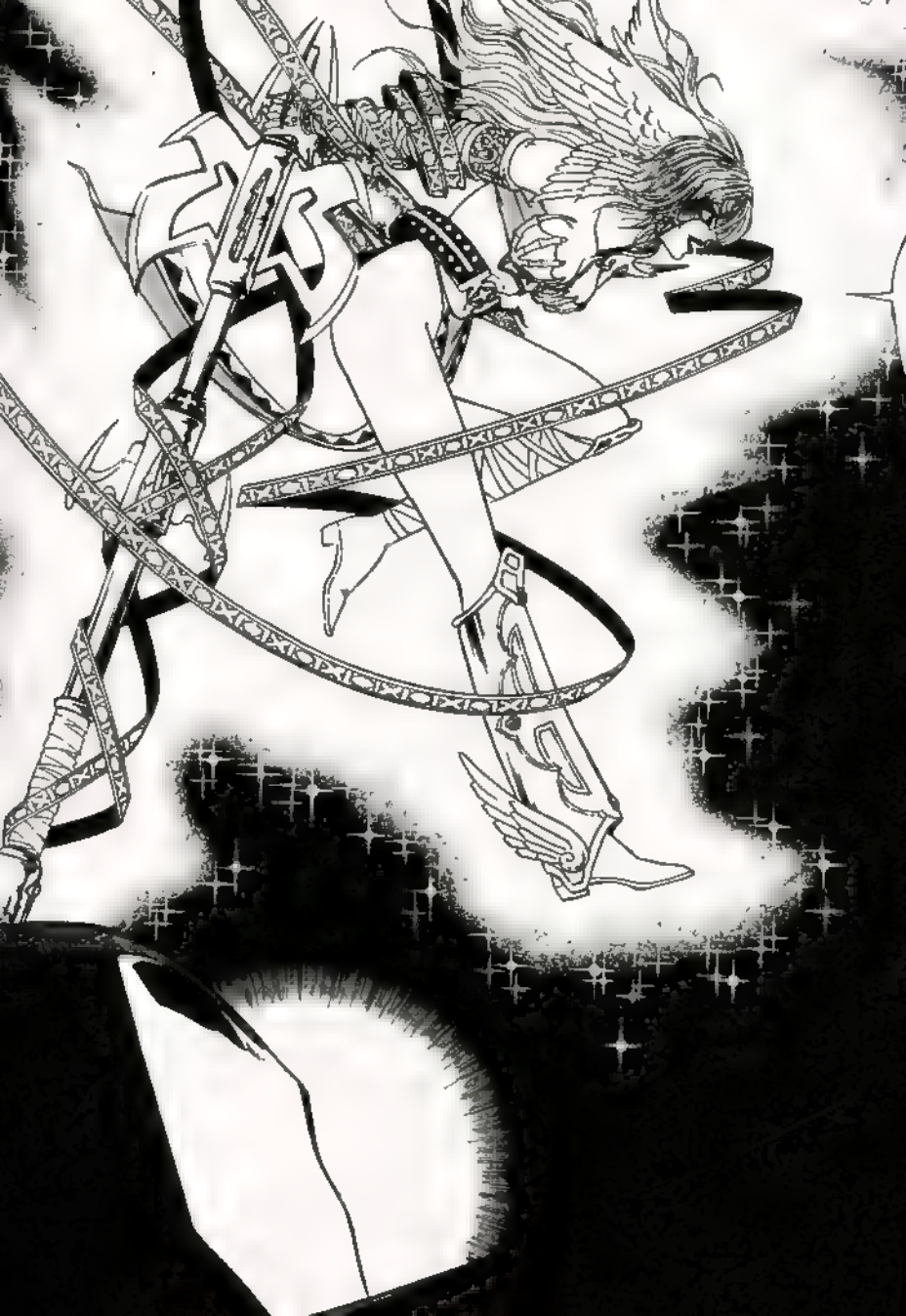
HIM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY 'BOUT--
KID...
RUN AWAY, KID! SAVE YOUR-SELF!
SCOURGE! SERIOUSLY! THE KID...
...JUST...
UNGRRR
...LET HIM GO...

HE'S LITERALLY BEING CRUSHED OUT OF EXISTENCE!
OPEN THOSE EYES AND MOVE, OR YOU'RE DEAD!
WAKE-UP, BOY! WAKE-UP AND RUN!
-ting!-

Shunk!
!?
UH--
OH!

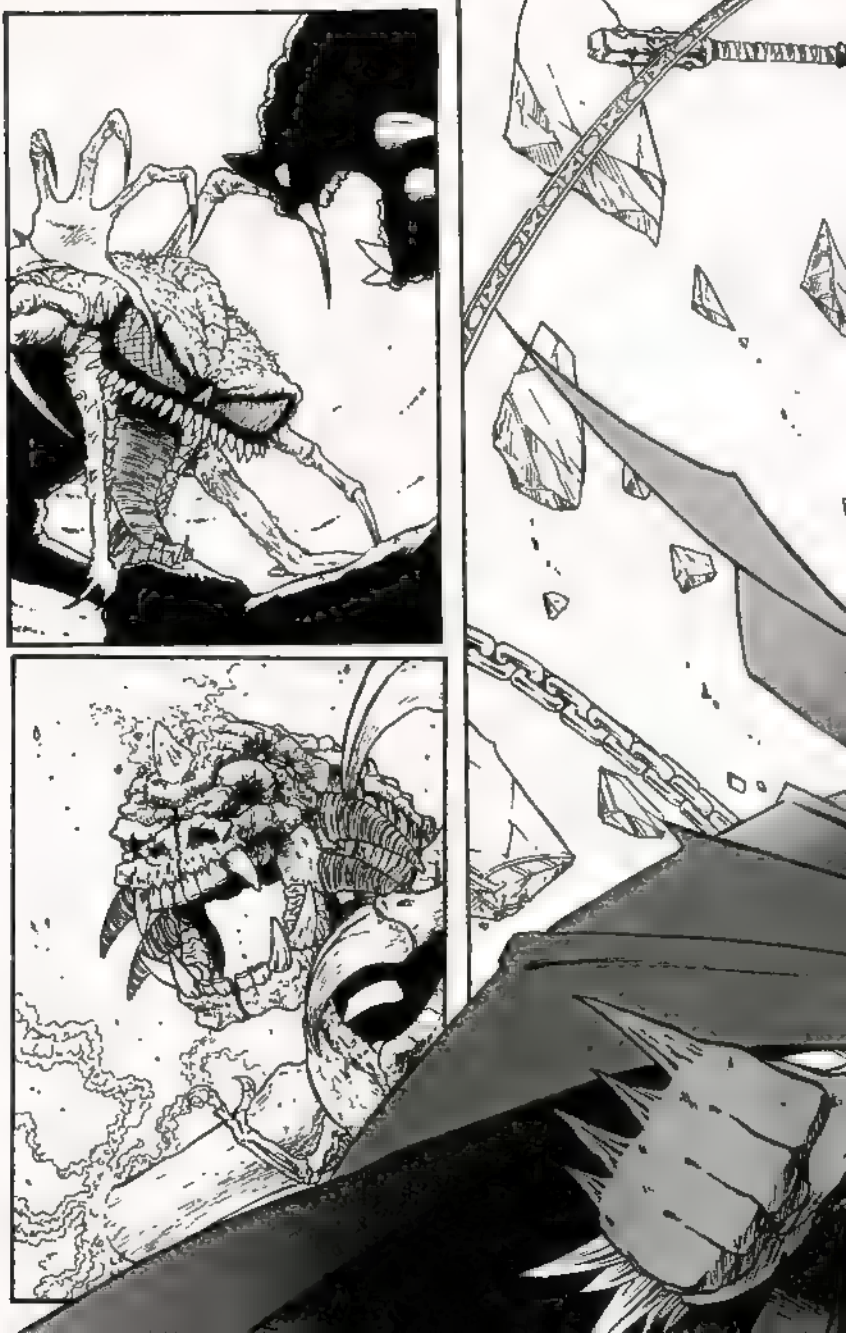
YOU DARE STEAL MY VICTORY?!
AFTER ALL...
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!

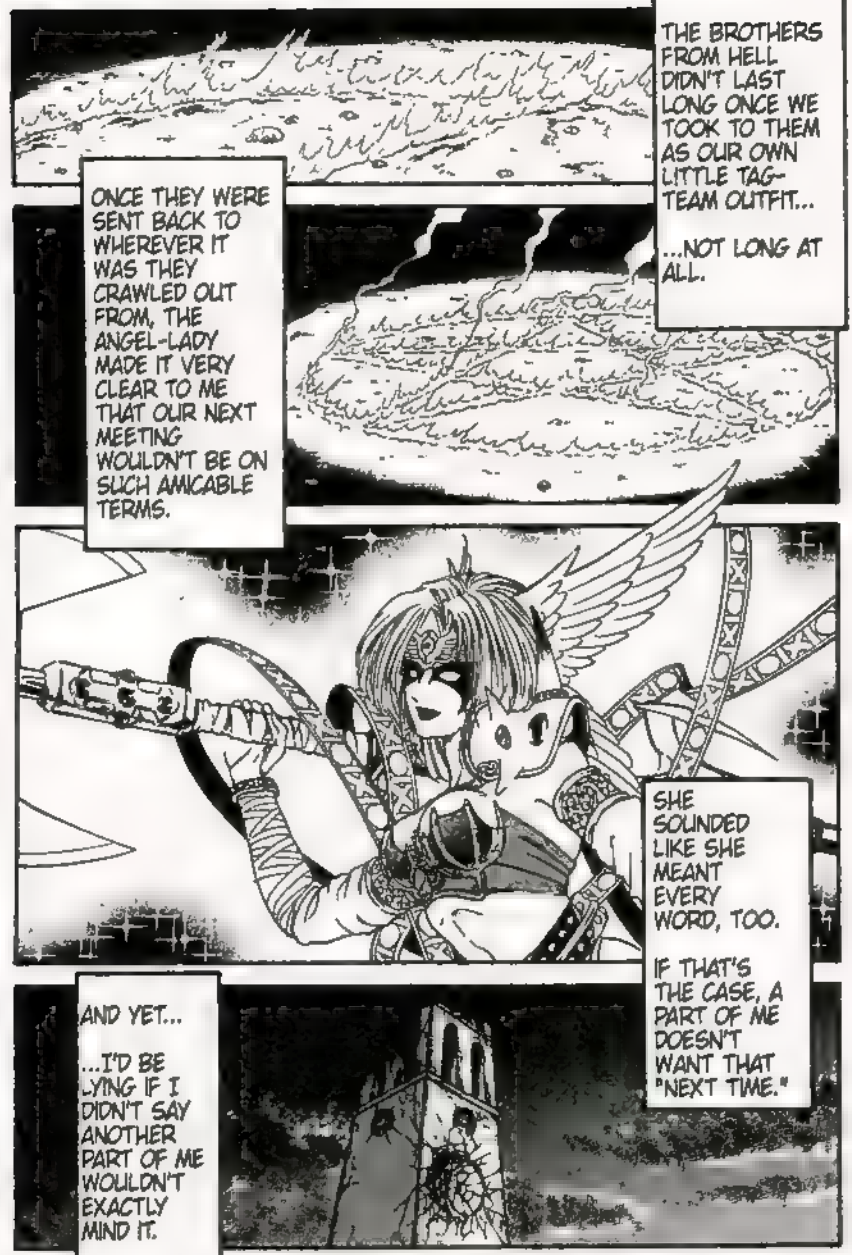

...HE'S MY PRIZE!



I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID DURING OUR LAST ENCOUNTER. EVEN ABOUT THINGS NOT SAID.
M--
MIKAELA?
LIKE WHY AND HOW WE FIGHT. MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, YOU GOT ME THINKING.
WHATEVER IT WAS I SAID OR DID, I'M GLAD.
AND JUST NOW...
...LADY, YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED MORE ANGELIC.

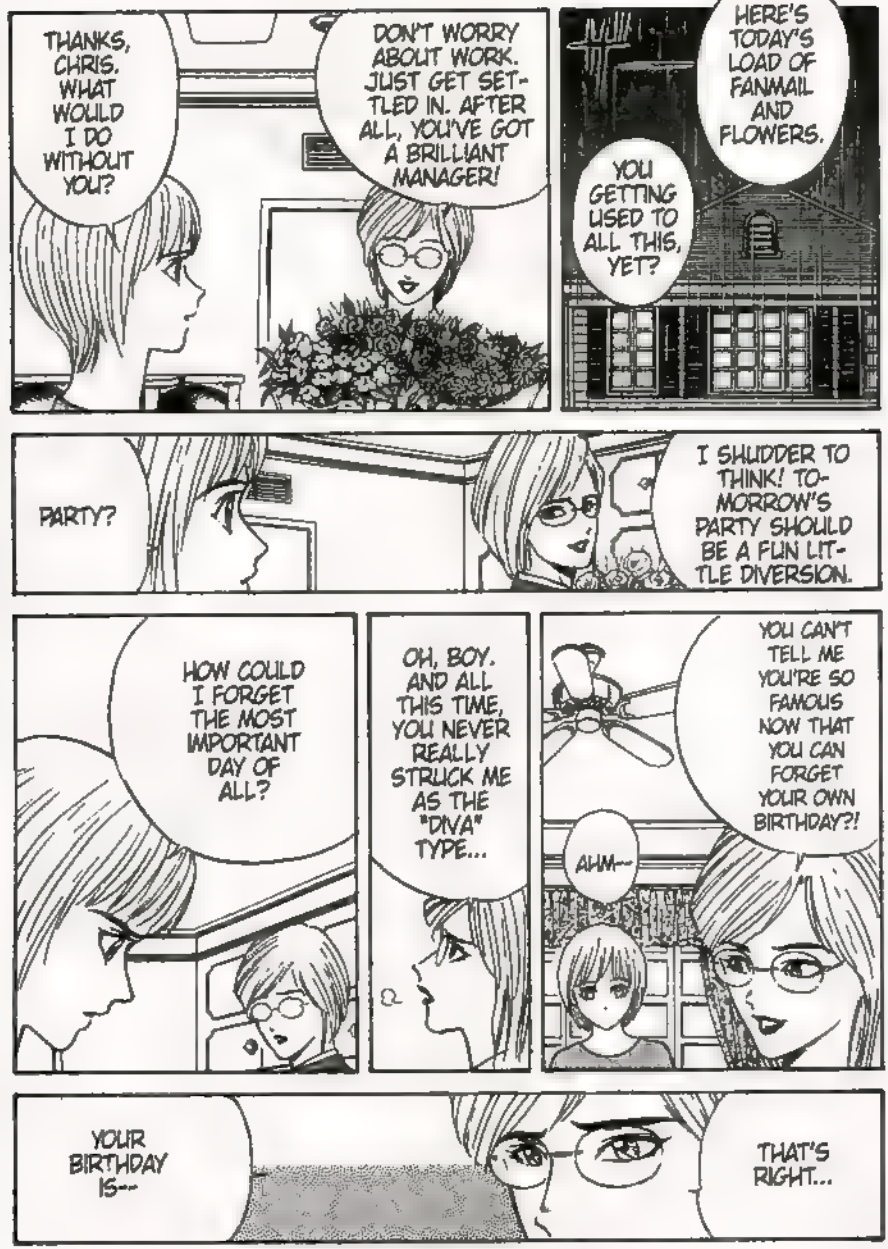
DON'T GET SENTI-MENTAL ON ME.
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO SIT ON YOUR DUFF AND YAP?
GET UP AND LET'S FINISH THIS!

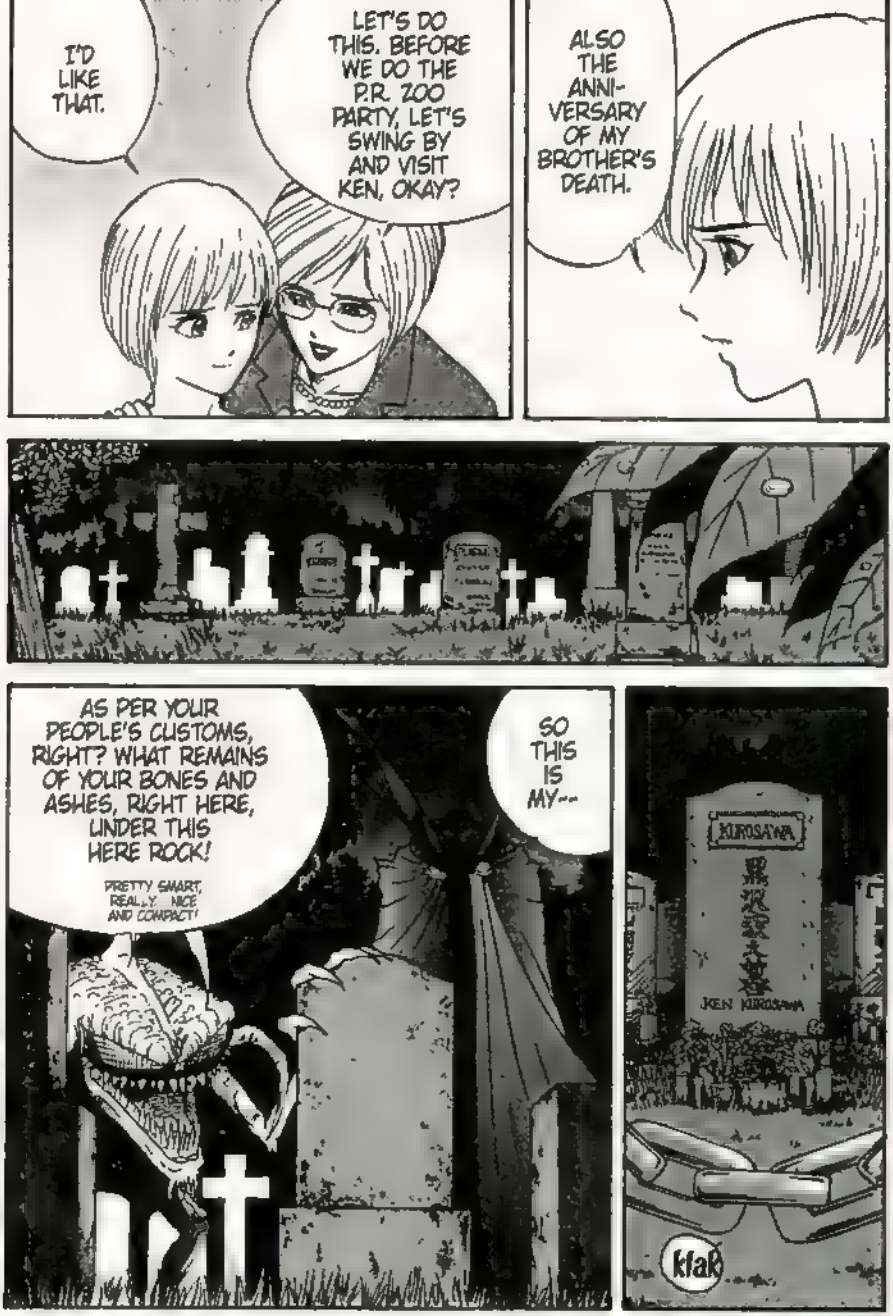



THE BROTHERS FROM HELL DIDN'T LAST LONG ONCE WE TOOK TO THEM AS OUR OWN LITTLE TAG-TEAM OUTFIT...
...NOT LONG AT ALL.
ONCE THEY WERE SENT BACK TO WHEREVER IT WAS THEY CRAWLED OUT FROM, THE ANGEL-LADY MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO ME THAT OUR NEXT MEETING WOULDN'T BE ON SUCH AMICABLE TERMS.
SHE SOUNDED LIKE SHE MEANT EVERY WORD, TOO.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, A PART OF ME DOESN'T WANT THAT "NEXT TIME."
AND YET...
...I'D BE LYING IF I DIDN'T SAY ANOTHER PART OF ME WOULDN'T EXACTLY MIND IT.

IN THE MEANTIME, I WRAP MYSELF IN THE DARKNESS AND SILENCE OF THIS PLACE OF DEATH...
THAT BRIDGE WILL BURN WHEN WE GET TO IT.
次の闘いが
始まるまでの、間……
...UNTIL THE NEXT BATTLE BEGINS...

EPISODE.6 RECOLLECTION —追憶—

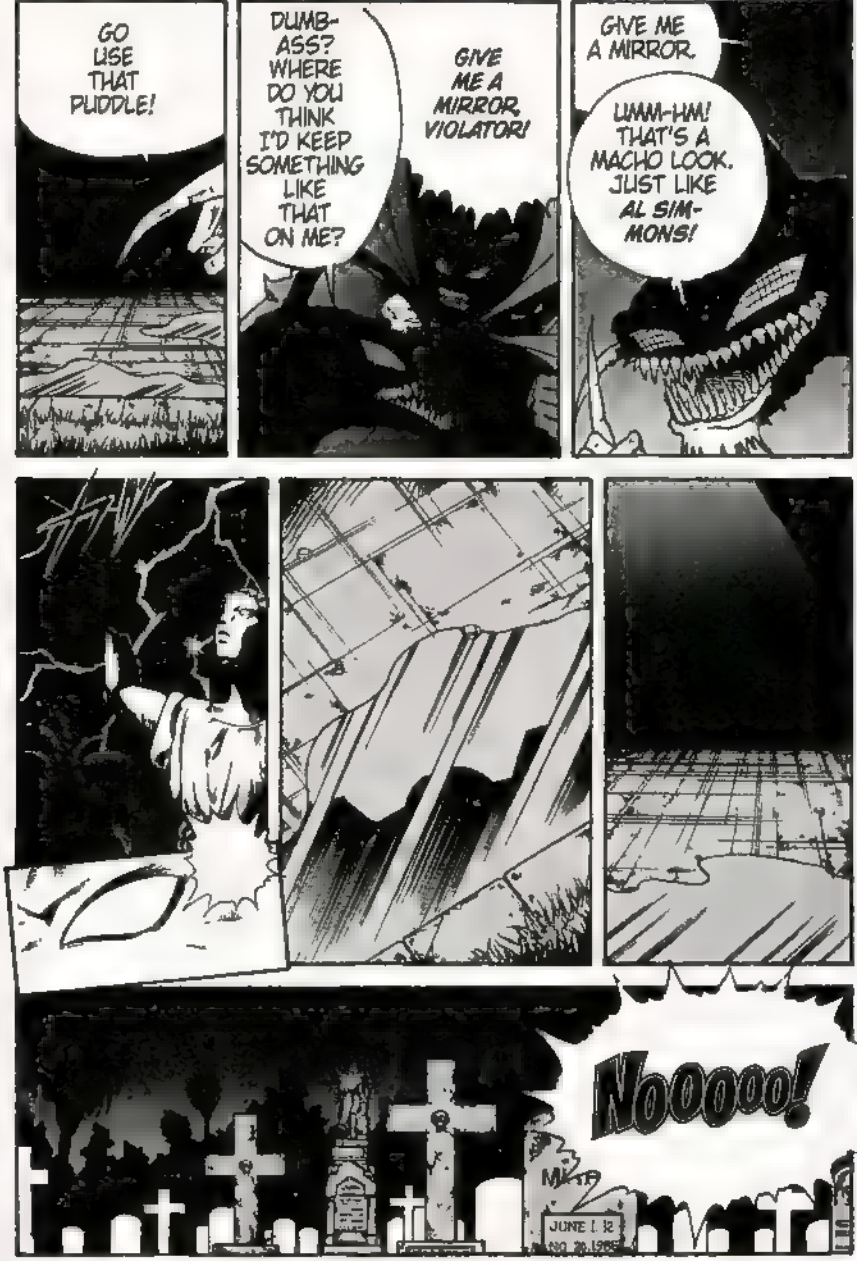

THANKS, CHRIS. WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WORK. JUST GET SETTLED IN. AFTER ALL, YOU'VE GOT A BRILLIANT MANAGER!
HERE'S TODAY'S LOAD OF FANMAIL AND FLOWERS.
YOU GETTING USED TO ALL THIS, YET?
PARTY?
I SHUDDER TO THINK! TOMORROW'S PARTY SHOULD BE A FUN LITTLE DIVERSION.
HOW COULD I FORGET THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF ALL?
OH, BOY. AND ALL THIS TIME, YOU NEVER REALLY STRUCK ME AS THE "DIVA" TYPE...
YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU'RE SO FAMOUS NOW THAT YOU CAN FORGET YOUR OWN BIRTHDAY?!
AHM--
YOUR BIRTHDAY IS--
THAT'S RIGHT...


I'D LIKE THAT.
LET'S DO THIS. BEFORE WE DO THE P.R. ZOO PARTY, LET'S SWING BY AND VISIT KEN, OKAY?
ALSO THE ANNI-VERSARY OF MY BROTHER'S DEATH.
AS PER YOUR PEOPLE'S CUSTOMS, RIGHT? WHAT REMAINS OF YOUR BONES AND ASHES, RIGHT HERE, UNDER THIS HERE ROCK!
PRETTY SMART, REALLY. NICE AND COMPACT!
SO THIS IS MY--
KUROSAWA
KEN KUROSAWA
klak

SO I REALLY AM DEAD.
BONES. ASHES.
...HOW IS IT THAT THIS COS-TUME IS FILLED-OUT AS IF THERE WAS ONE?
BUT... IF THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF MY BODY...
LIKE YOU DIDN'T KNOW!
YOUR PSYCHOPLASM'S GONE AHEAD AND MADE YOU UP A NEW BODY... ...A "NEW YOU," IF YOU WANT TO BE A 'TARD ABOUT IT.
WHAT? YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW HOW ALL THAT WORKS?
...UNDER THIS COWL?
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT I'VE EVEN GOT A NEW FACE...
!
A NEW BODY?
THE PSYCHOPLASM WILL ULTIMATELY REFLECT WHATEVER THOUGHTS YOU'VE HAD OF YOUR FACE. IT'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO.
HMMM. IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, YES. WHAT-EVER THE HECK FACE YOU MADE, ANYWAY.

schlip
TELL ME! HOW DO I GET THIS MASK OFF?
MY FACE!
MY...
THE COSTUME IS ALSO FABRICATED FROM PSYCHO-PLASM. THEREFORE, IT, TOO, OBEYS YOUR THOUGHTS.
!
AT LEAST WITH A FACE, I CAN LOOK MARIKO EYE-TO-EYE AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT SOME KIND OF MASKED FREAK!
...JUST MEET WITH HER...
SO LONG AS I CAN...
EVEN IF IT'S NOT AS HER BROTHER, IT WON'T MATTER.

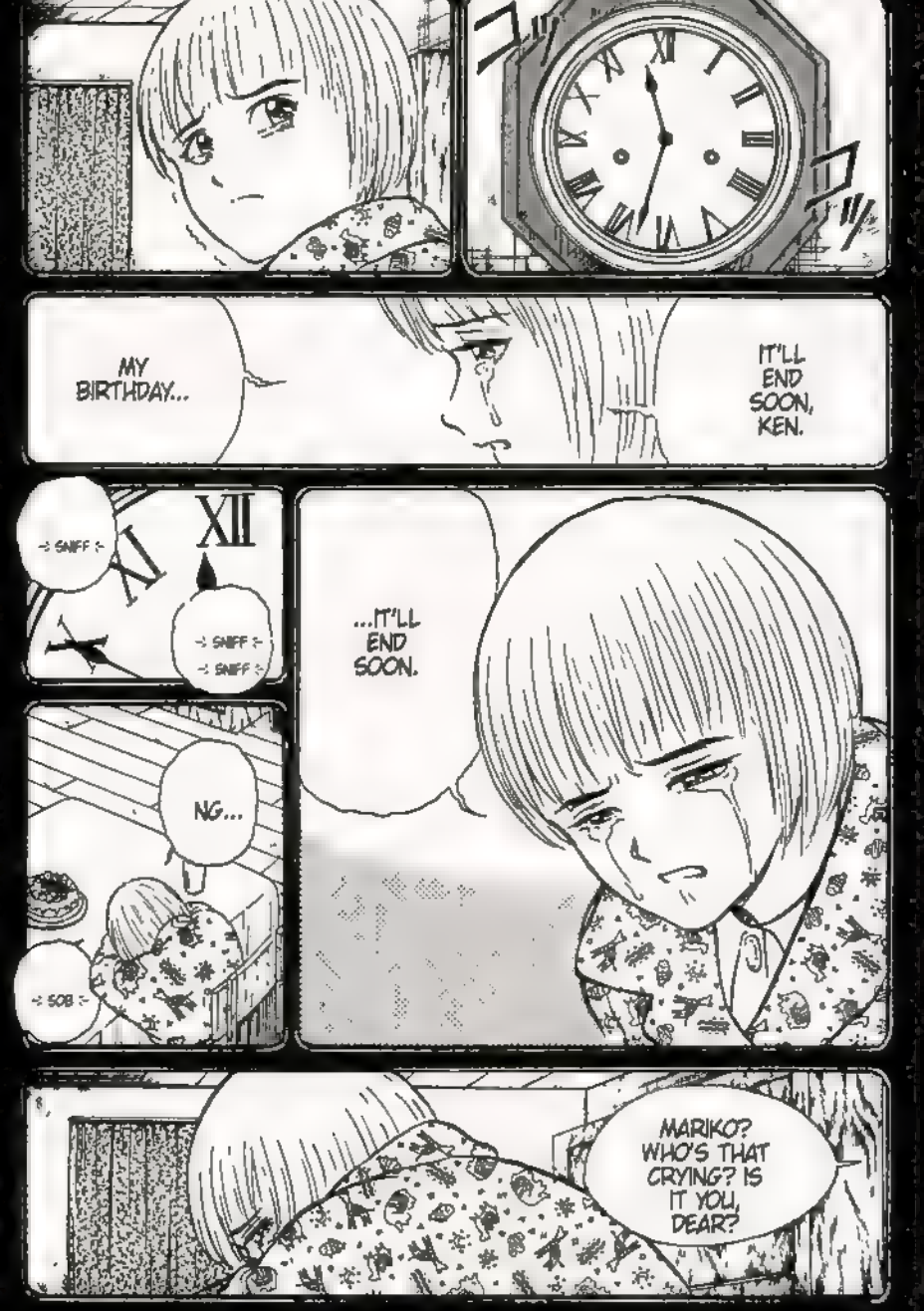
...AS A MAN.
BEFORE I DIED?
NO...
YOU'RE A BRUTHA! EXACTLY WHAT WAS YOUR LAST RECOLLECTION OF YOUR FACE BEFORE YOU TOOK YOUR DIRT NAP?
WHOA, BABY! NOW THAT'S A COOL MUG YOU'VE GOT!


GO USE THAT PUDDLE!
DUMB-ASS? WHERE DO YOU THINK I'D KEEP SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON ME?
GIVE ME A MIRROR, VIOLATOR!
GIVE ME A MIRROR.
UMM-HM! THAT'S A MACHO LOOK. JUST LIKE AL SIM-MONS!
Nooooo!
MIKE
JUNE 1 82

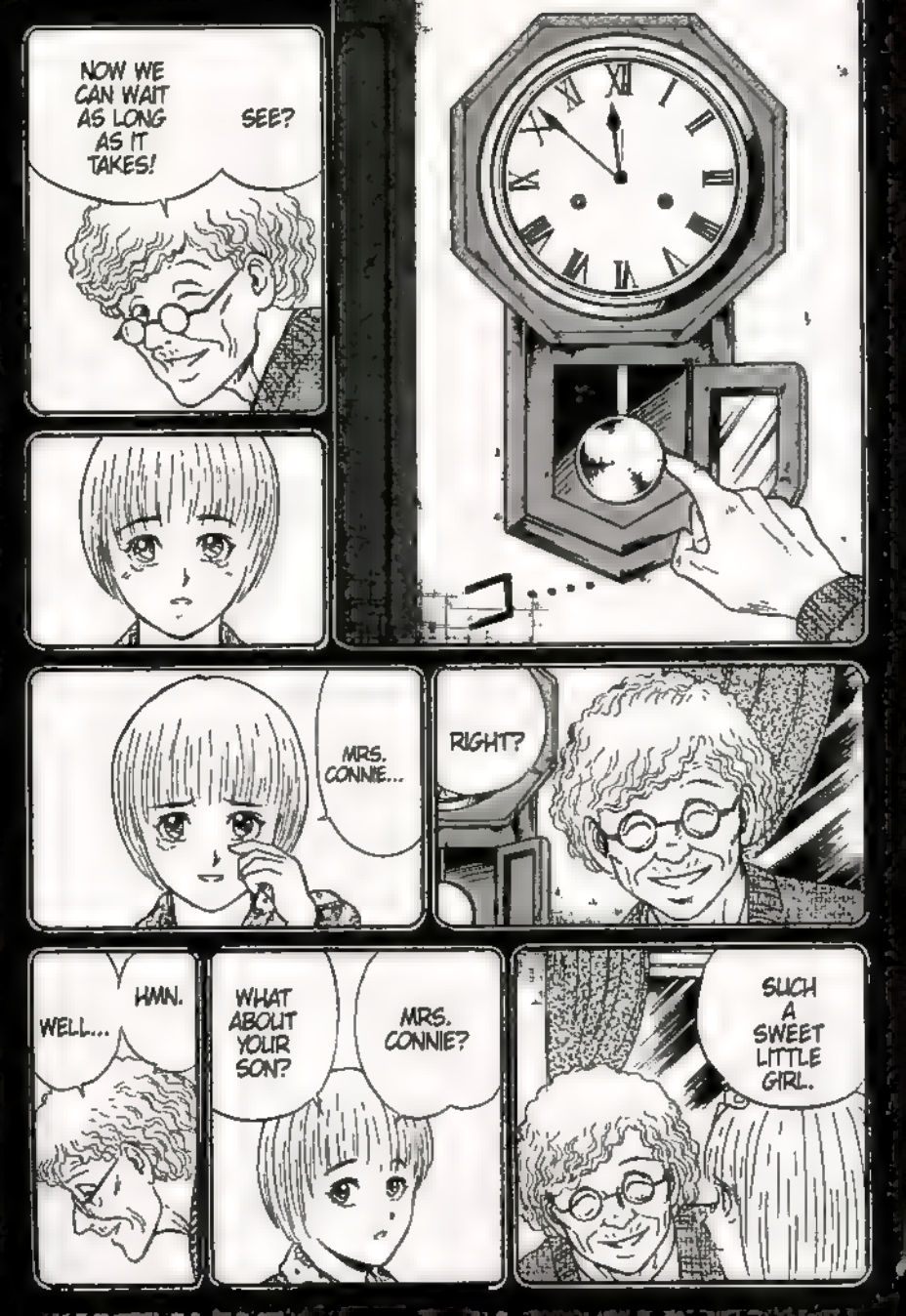
I TOLD YA...
KEN...
SO JUST REST UP UNTIL THEN.
YES. I PROM-ISE.
THEN IT'S A PROMISE!
NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL BE HOME TONIGHT.
...DIDN'T I PROMISE YOU I'D BE BACK FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?
最後の言葉だった
それが父さんの
YOU'RE HOME EARLY!
KEN!
knock knock

THANK YOU, MRS. CONNIE!
AH!
HELLOOO! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARIKO!
I LOVE YOUR CAKES, MRS. CONNIE!
THANK YOU!!
A BIRTHDAY CAKE!
A LITTLE SOMETHING YOUR BROTHER ASKED ME TO WHIP-UP!
MICHAEL?
MICHAEL IS COMING TO VISIT.
I'M SORRY, DEAR. BUT NOT TONIGHT.
???
AREN'T YOU GOING TO STAY?
WELL, PLEASE GIVE KEN MY BEST!
WOW. THAT'S BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN.
10 YEARS?
HE'S MY SON, MARIKO. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN SOME 10 YEARS...

隣りのコニーおばあちゃん
MRS. CONNIE...
I UNDERSTAND! I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU, MRS. CONNIE!
I'M SO SORRY, MARIKO. BUT JUST THIS ONE NIGHT...
I WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING THESE DAYS?
...SHE ALWAYS KEPT AN EYE ON US...
コツ
コツ
コツ
コツ
THAT NIGHT...
...EVEN SHE...
I Love you

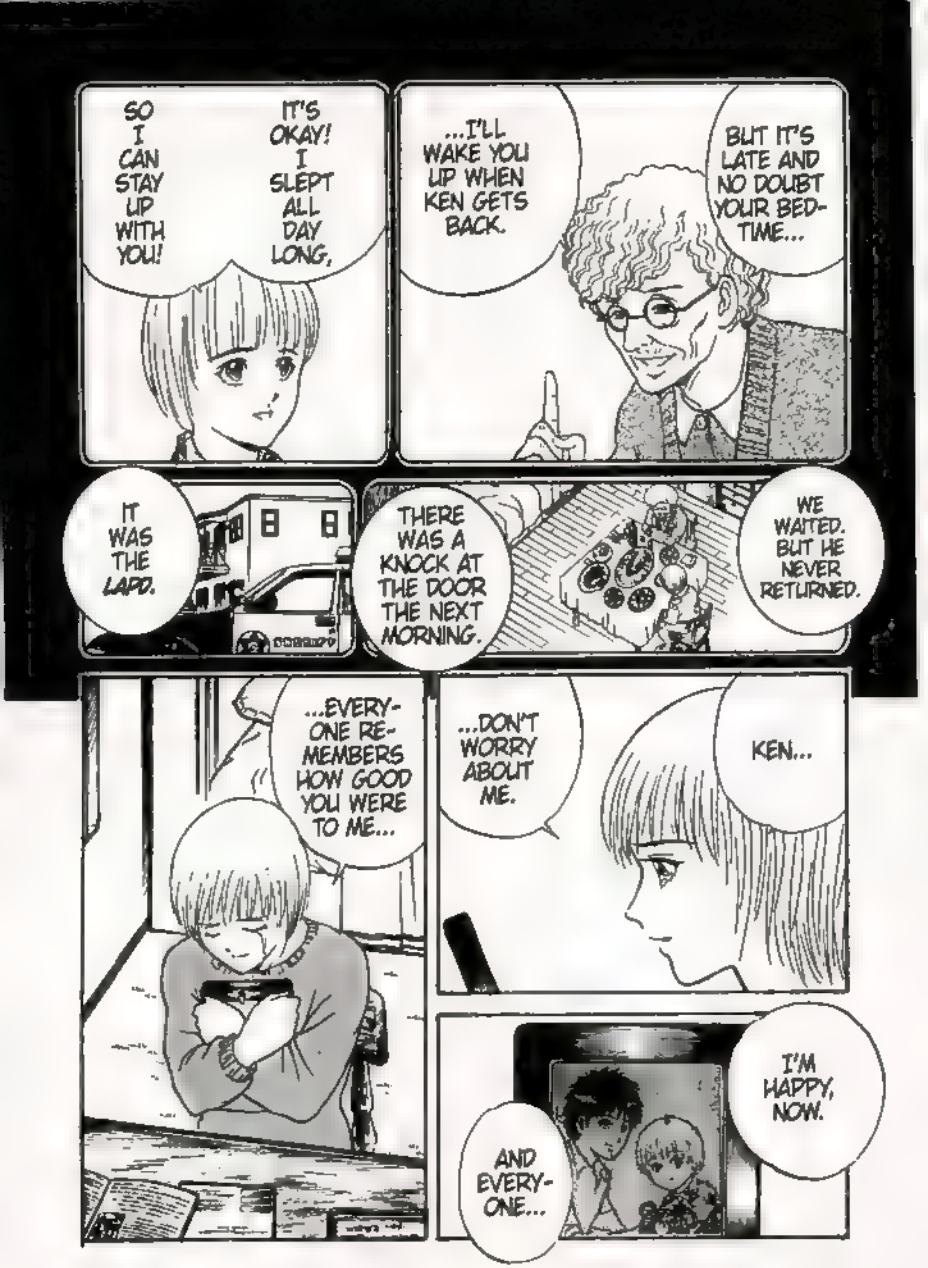

MY BIRTHDAY...
IT'LL END SOON, KEN.
XII
-: SNIFF :-
-: SNIFF :-
-: SNIFF :-
...IT'LL END SOON.
NG...
-: SOB :-
MARIKO? WHO'S THAT CRYING? IS IT YOU, DEAR?

HE PROMISED ME--
HE'S NOT HERE.
M-MRS...
MARIKO? WHERE'S KEN?
THERE, THERE. KEN SAID HE'D BE HERE. HE WILL BE. HE TOLD ME AS MUCH.
SHHH.
Waaaa!
AND HE'S NOT HOME!
MY BIRTHDAY WILL BE OVER BY THEN!
HE PROMISED...
THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
READY? WATCH THIS.
?
...NOT UNTIL KEN GETS HERE, ANYWAY!
NOPE! YOUR BIRTH-DAY WON'T BE OVER...

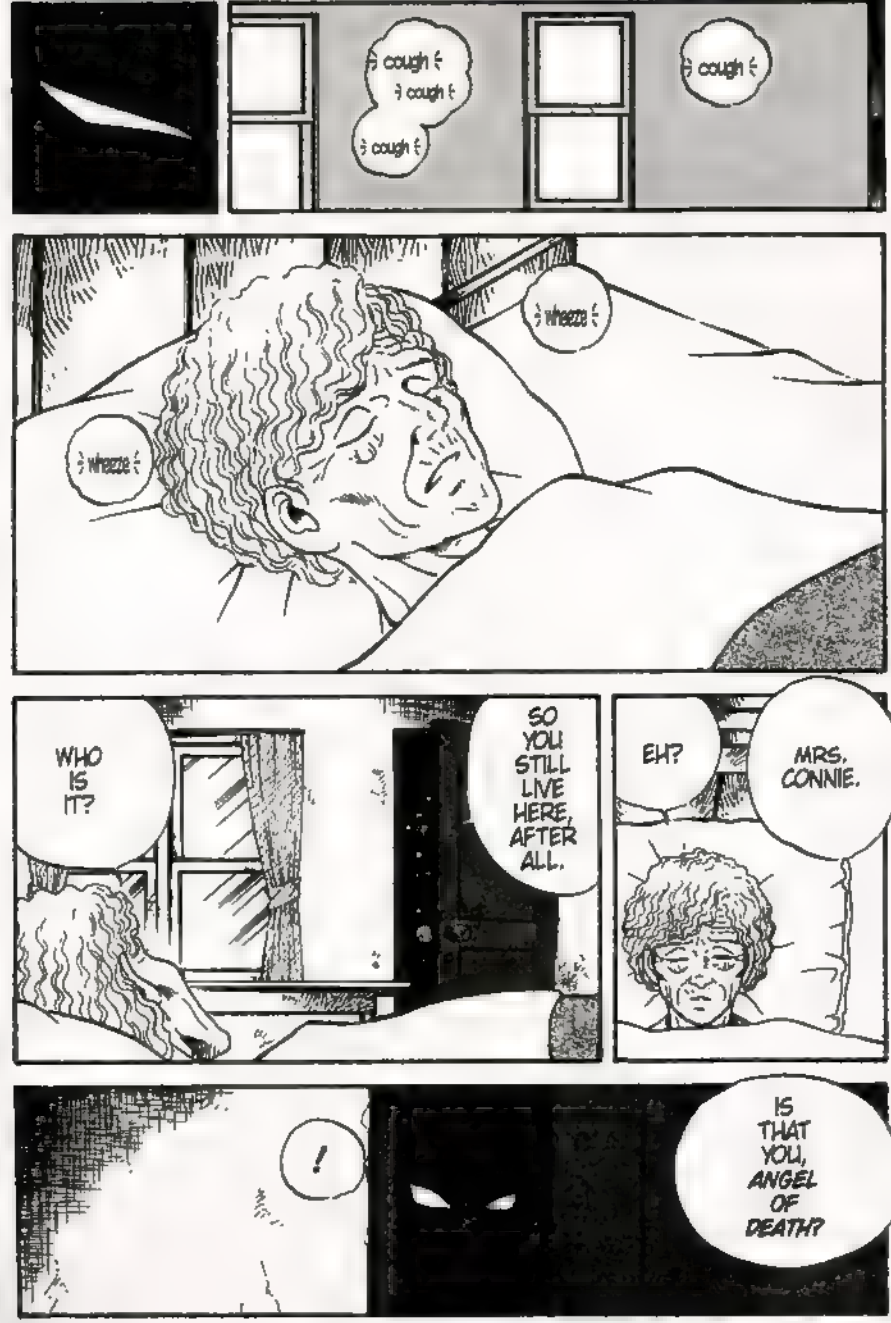

NOW WE CAN WAIT AS LONG AS IT TAKES!
SEE?
MRS. CONNIE...
RIGHT?
HMN.
WELL...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SON?
MRS. CONNIE?
SUCH A SWEET LITTLE GIRL.

IT SAID HE COULDN'T MAKE IT TONIGHT, AFTER ALL.
I JUST RECEIVED A COURIER-DELIVERED TELEGRAM FROM HIM.
BUT HE'S PROMISED TO VISIT, SOME DAY.
ASKED ME TO SIT TIGHT UNTIL THEN.
I GUESS HIS COMPANY SENT HIM OFF TO SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY AGAIN, SO HE POSTPONED...
...AGAIN.
.....
WHY DON'T YOU AND KEN JOIN ME? THE THREE OF US WILL HAVE A FEAST!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE GOT QUITE THE SPREAD COOKED-UP EXPECTING HIM.
...DAY.
SOME...
OKAY!
THEN LET'S HEAD ON UP TO MY ROOM, OKAY?
GRAB SOME CANDLES AND MATCHES.

I WAS ABLE TO PUSH ASIDE THE FRAILTIES OF AGE FOR THIS ONE MEAL.
USED EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH.
WOW! YOU MADE ALL THIS?
UH-HUH.
IF HE COULD'VE JUST SAID SOMETHING SOONER.
JUST THAT CHICKEN TOOK SOME FIVE HOURS TO BAKE.
MRS. CONNIE...
IT'S NOTHING.
THAT YOU COULD BE MADE SO HAPPY BY ALL THIS MAKES ME HAPPY AS WELL. THAT'S ALL.


SO I CAN STAY UP WITH YOU!
IT'S OKAY! I SLEPT ALL DAY LONG.
...I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN KEN GETS BACK.
BUT IT'S LATE AND NO DOUBT YOUR BEDTIME...
IT WAS THE LAPD.
THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR THE NEXT MORNING.
WE WAITED. BUT HE NEVER RETURNED.
...EVERYONE REMEMBERS HOW GOOD YOU WERE TO ME...
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
KEN...
I'M HAPPY, NOW.
AND EVERYONE...

...WITH MARIKO BECOMING A STAR, LIVING IN THE SPOT-LIGHT...
IN SEVEN YEARS...
NOTHING'S CHANGED.
...IT'S EXACTLY AS I REMEMBER IT.
...THE APARTMENT WE LIVED IN...
...WHILE I BECAME WELL-DONE HAMBURGER FACE...


cough
cough
cough
cough
wheeze
wheeze
WHO IS IT?
SO YOU STILL LIVE HERE, AFTER ALL.
EH?
MRS. CONNIE.
!
IS THAT YOU, ANGEL OF DEATH?

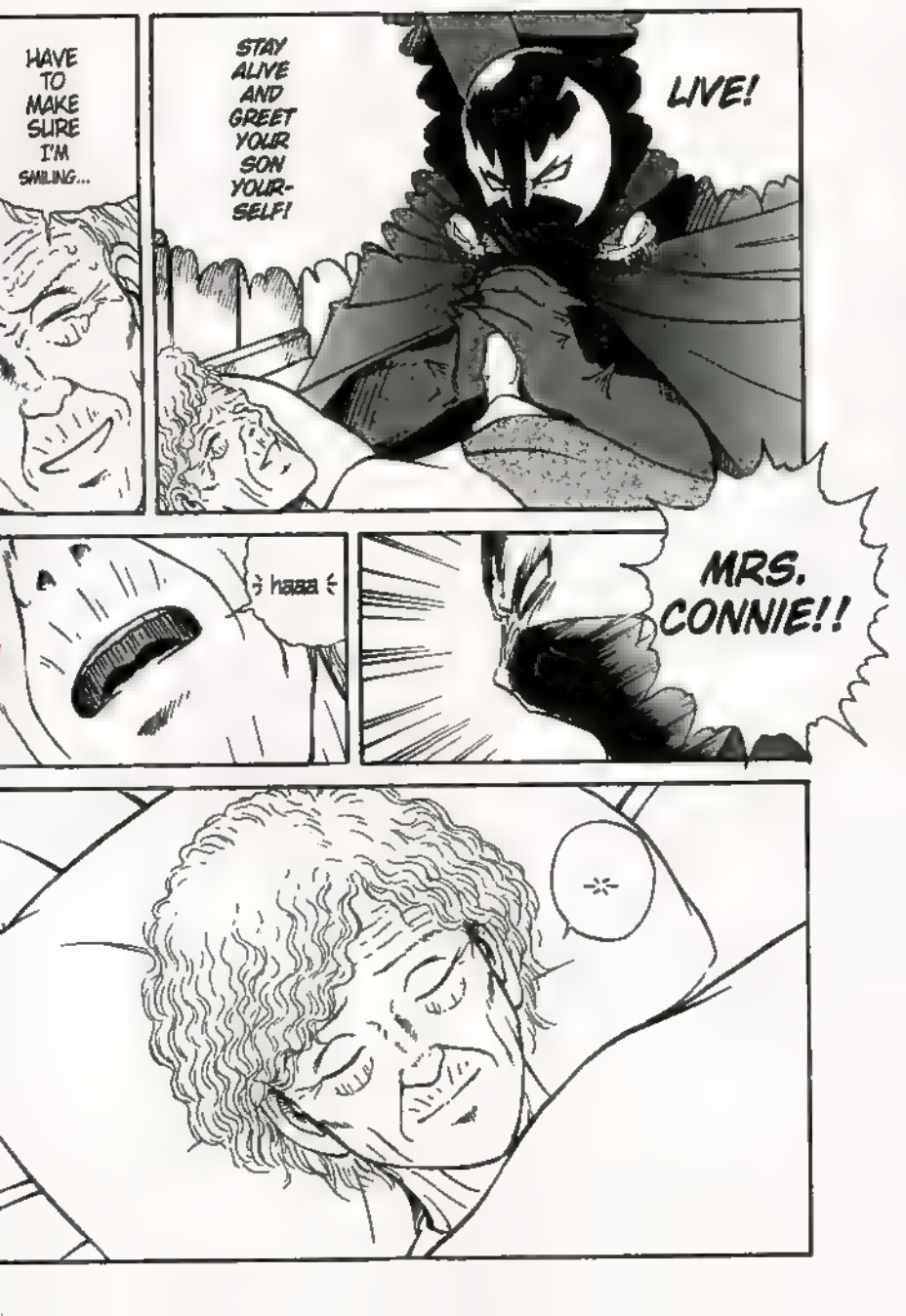
?!
I'VE BEEN WAITING.
YOU'VE FINALLY COME FOR ME, HAVEN'T YOU?
...AND EVEN MY SON IS OFF IN SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY I'VE NOT HEARD OF.
THERE'S NO MORE MONEY TO PAY THE HOSPITAL BILLS...
THIS OLD BODY'S BEEN RIDDLED WITH CHRONIC AILMENTS... EVEN MY EYES HAVE DECIDED TO QUIT ON ME.
I'VE GROWN TIRED OF WAITING.
17 YEARS. I'VE WAITED FOR 17 YEARS.
HEAVEN OR HELL, I DON'T MUCH CARE.
SO PLEASE, TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE.

...HEAVEN IS THE ONLY PLACE FOR YOU.
MRS. CONNIE...
...IF YOU GO...
...ONE OF HELL'S CHILDREN.
I'M...
NOW HURRY-UP AND LET'S BE OFF.
IT MUST BE A BETTER LIFE THAN THIS, RIGHT?
I DON'T MIND.
IT'S EASIER THIS WAY.
IT MUST'VE BEEN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO...
...THE MORNING NEVER CAME.
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR EYES--

...YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LETTER BY THE DOOR?
THEN...
THERE WAS A LETTER?
A LETTER?
MICHAEL?
MI--
NO. "MICHAEL."
Michael Smith
3915 7th Ave. Pa
Los Angeles
IT'S FROM A "MICK--"
THE SENDER--
I BEG OF YOU, HAVE THE MERCY TO READ ME WHAT'S IN THAT LETTER--
PLEASE, ANGEL OF DEATH! GRANT ME THIS ONE LAST WISH BEFORE TAKING ME TO HELL!
THIS IS THE ONE OF WHOM YOU WERE SPEAKING?
MY SON...
...HE WROTE ME A LETTER?
HNGK!

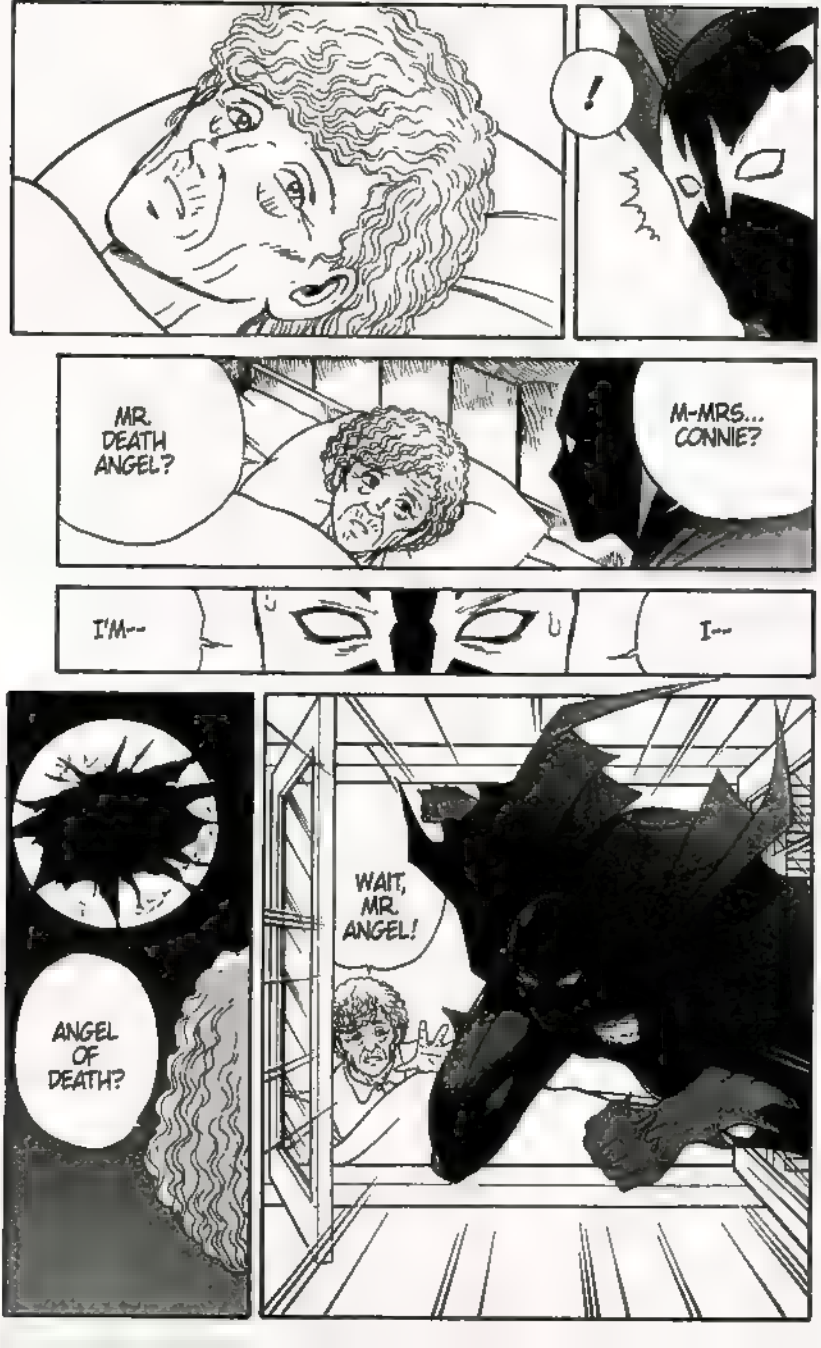
THIS IS TOO CRUEL, EVEN FOR YOU, ANGEL! P-PLEASE... LET ME...
CONNIE!
gasp
gasp
Urgh!
Ung!
!!
I BEG OF YOU...
...READ IT TO ME...
...LET ME HEAR WHAT MY SON HAD TO SAY!
I WANTED TO STEER CLEAR OF THIS PLACE, BUT DIDN'T LISTEN TO MY OWN GOOD SENSE. NOW LOOK AT THIS CRAZY SITUATION--
HNNN--
READY?! LISTEN CAREFULLY.
HERE IT IS!
I WILL!
HOLD-ON, MRS. CONNIE!
MRS. CONNIE! HE'S COMING HOME--
TODAY!
HE'S COMING HOME TODAY!
My dear mam
I'm sorry for t
will be come ba
So, before the
see you again
!
rip!

YOUR SON IS COMING HOME TODAY!
DID YOU HEAR ME?!
...AND ALL I'LL HAVE TO GREET HIM WITH IS MY DEATH'S FACE.
HOW IRONIC.
MY SON IS RETURNING...
COMING HOME...
DON'T LOSE FAITH, NOW!
...STILL GREET HIM WITH A SMILE...
BUT EVEN IF I'M GONE, I CAN STILL...


HAVE TO MAKE SURE I'M SMILING...
STAY ALIVE AND GREET YOUR SON YOUR-SELF!
LIVE!
MRS. CONNIE!!
÷ haaa ÷
-*-

MRS. CONNIE...
C--
YOUR SON... ...AND HIS FAMILY!
MRS. CONNIE! THEY'RE HERE!
REMEMBER TO GREET GRANDMA--
WELL, HERE WE ARE!
FRED, MARIA, LET'S GO.
!?!
...IS NOT YOUR TIME TO DIE!!
NOW...
OPEN YOUR EYES!
COME BACK!

?!
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?
WHAT IS THIS?!
WH--


!
MR. DEATH ANGEL?
M-MRS... CONNIE?
I'M--
I--
ANGEL OF DEATH?
WAIT, MR. ANGEL!

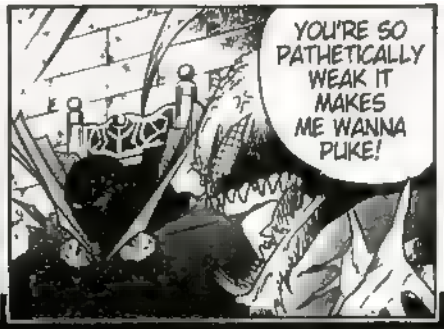
AND WHAT KIND OF FACE IS THAT?
I MADE EXCUSES UNTIL IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE I COULDN'T BEAR TO FACE MY OWN MOM.
WILL SHE EVEN REMEMBER YOUR FACE?
IT'S BEEN 17 YEARS, RIGHT, DAD?
I DON'T WANT YOU KIDS GROWING UP TO NEGLECT YOUR PARENTS LIKE I DID.
...AND LET YOUR MOTHER DECIDE FOR HERSELF...
WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE...
MOTHER...

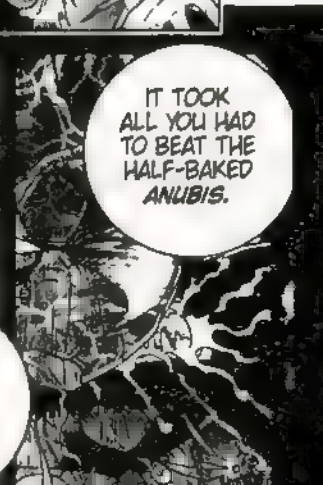
YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT, MOM.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT MY-SELF.
IT WAS NOTHING SHY OF A MIRACLE.
THANKS TO GOD--
NO. NOT GOD.
I'M STILL COMING TO GRIPS WITH IT.
MIRACLE?
IT WAS HIS WISH.
IT WAS THE ANGEL OF DEATH.

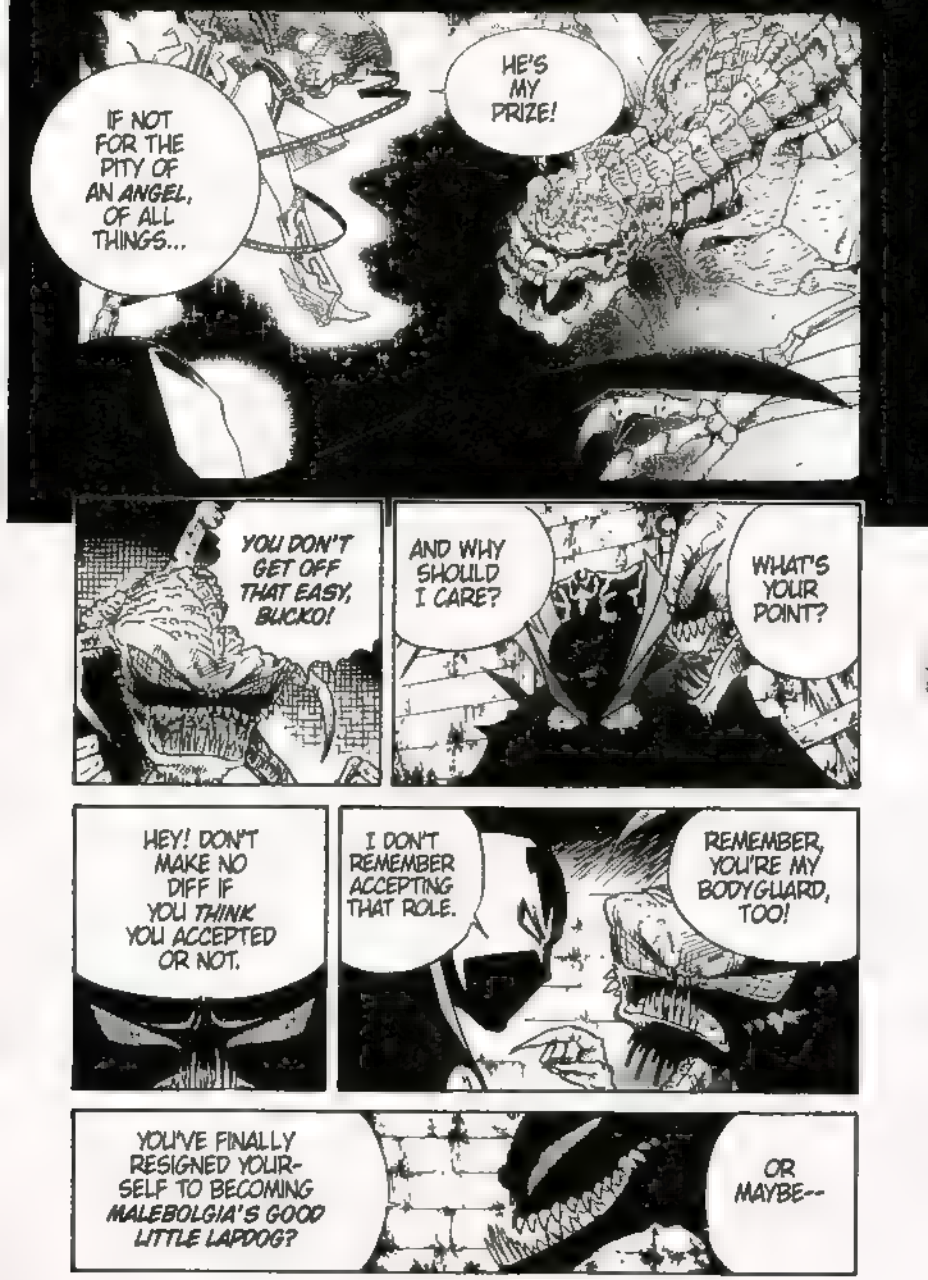
その日・地獄の使者は
IT WAS ON THAT DAY...
...THAT MOMENT...
悪魔の能力を知った
...I LEARNED THE DEVIL'S TRUE POWER...
そしてその引き換えに
...AND THE ULTIMATE TRADE
生と死の間で
BET-WEEN THE LIVING...

自己の孤独も……
...AND THAT OF MY OWN SOLITARY EXISTENCE...

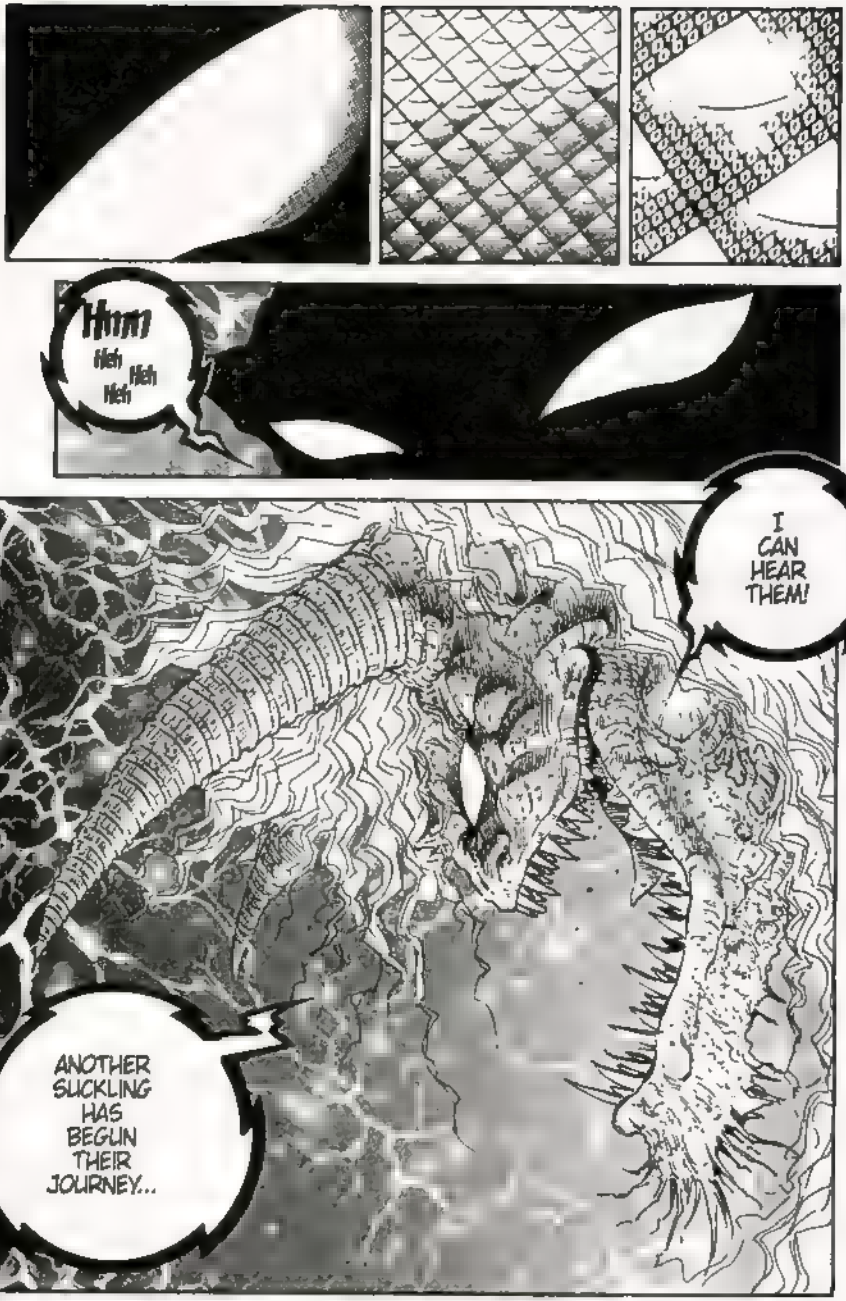
EPISODE.7 ASPIRATION 一志願






IF NOT FOR THE PITY OF AN *ANGEL*, OF ALL THINGS...
HE'S MY PRIZE!
YOU DON'T GET OFF THAT EASY, BUCKO!
AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
HEY! DON'T MAKE NO DIFF IF YOU *THINK* YOU ACCEPTED OR NOT.
I DON'T REMEMBER ACCEPTING THAT ROLE.
REMEMBER, YOU'RE MY BODYGUARD, TOO!
YOU'VE FINALLY RESIGNED YOURSELF TO BECOMING *MALEBOLGIA'S GOOD LITTLE LAPDOG?*
OR MAYBE--

YOU KNOW I'LL NEVER SERVE HIM.
CUT THE CRAP.
REMEMBER THAT.
YOU MUST BE FAR MORE POWERFUL IF YOU HOPE TO LAST PAST ROUND ONE AGAINST HIM.
THEN GET STRONGER!
...IF YOU FALL BACK INTO HIS CLUTCHES, IT WILL BE THE MOST MISERABLE EXISTENCE OF ALL!
HELL'S TYRANT...
YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS AN INSURMOUNTABLE DEFEAT.
YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE HIS ETERNAL GAZE.


Hmm
Heh
Heh
Heh
I CAN HEAR THEM!
ANOTHER SUCKLING HAS BEGUN THEIR JOURNEY...

DO WHAT YOU MUST. DEFY ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

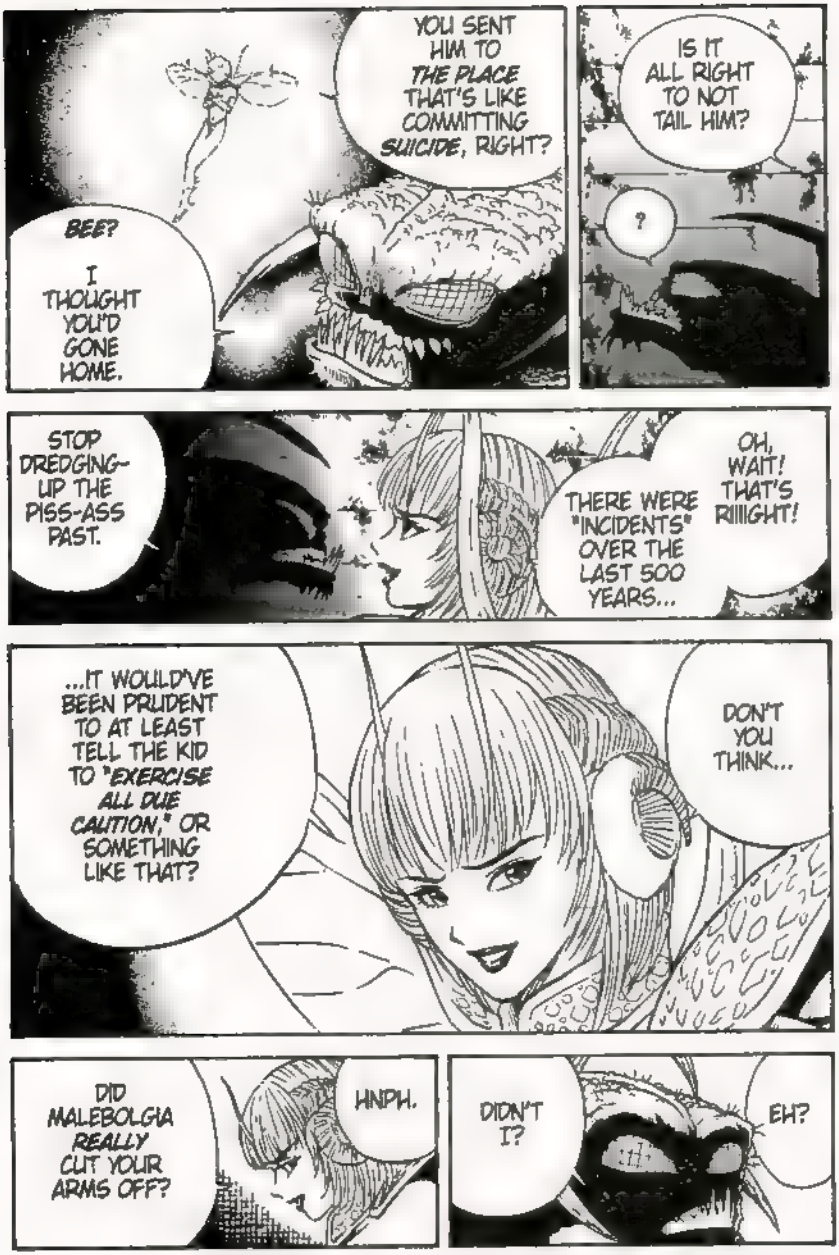
LET THE BABIES GET OUT AND PLAY!
THEIR SPIRIT IS IMPORTANT, FOR NOW.
GO FIND THE ONE WHO WAS HELLSPAWN BEFORE YOU! AND GROW BIG AND STRONG.
GO AND LEARN THIS ONE THING.
THAT IN THE END...

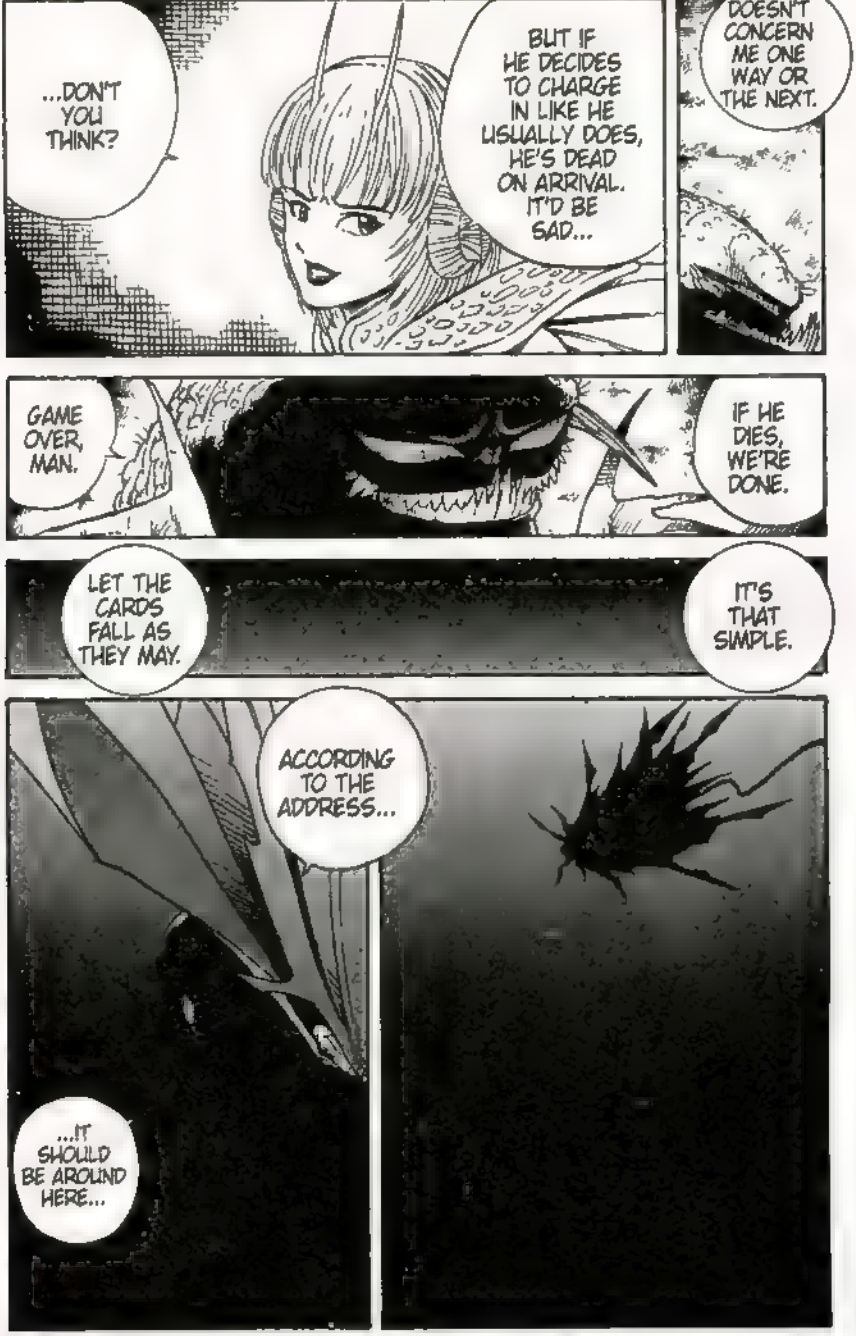
全ては我が
...EVERYTHING...
掌のうちという事を……
...IS IN THE PALM OF MY HAND...
BEVERLY
HILLS--

JUST A FLASH OF INSPIRATION. AN IDEA THAT FITS THE BILL NICELY.
WHAT FOR?
HERE. HUNT DOWN THIS ADDRESS.
YOUR PENMANSHIP IS TERRIBLE. I CAN BARELY READ THIS.
PWHT.
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME MORE POWERFUL, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
YOUR BEING WEAK AS A PUSSY... ...CAT... ISN'T JUST MY PROBLEM.
OH, NO.
FOR ALL THE TOUGH-GUY TALK, KEEP THIS IN MIND.
SMART-ASS LITTLE BRAT...
CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY YOU COULD DO SO ON YOUR OWN, KNOWING WHAT KIND OF ENEMIES YOU NOW FACE?
THE ONE WHO LIVES AT THAT ADDRESS CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO PROTECT MARIKO. LEARN FROM THEM.

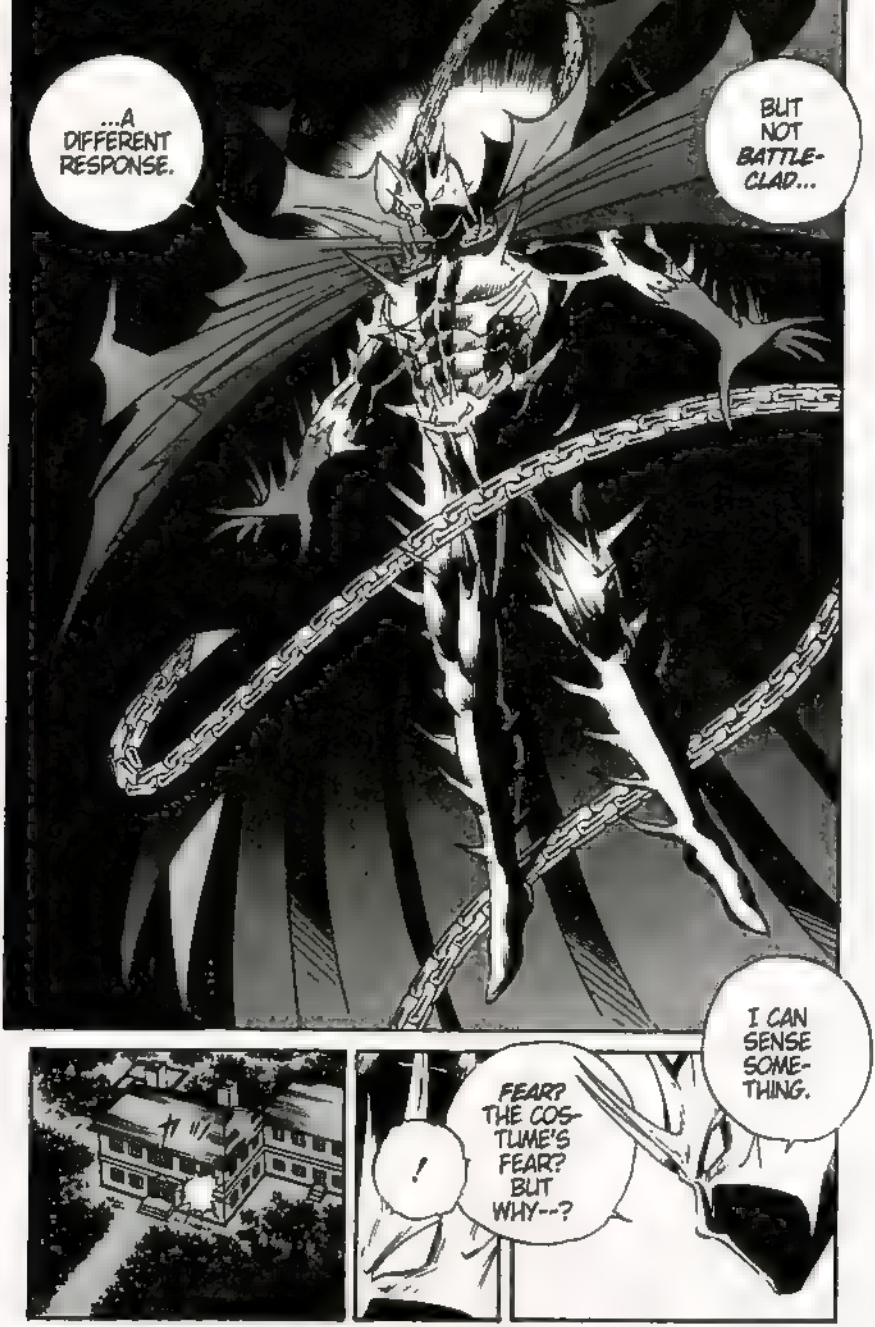
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
GRRR..
HNG-
ONE WHO'S BEEN A THORN IN MALEBOLGIA'S SIDE FOR 400... NO. GOING ON 500 YEARS!
THE ONE YOU'LL MEET IS ANOTHER HELLSPAWN.
TWO OR THREE YEARS. THAT'S USUALLY WHEN THEY BREAK. BUT NOT THIS ONE. 500 YEARS AND COUNTING.
YEP. HE'S A STUBBORN LITTLE BUGGER.
500 YEARS?!
FIVE--

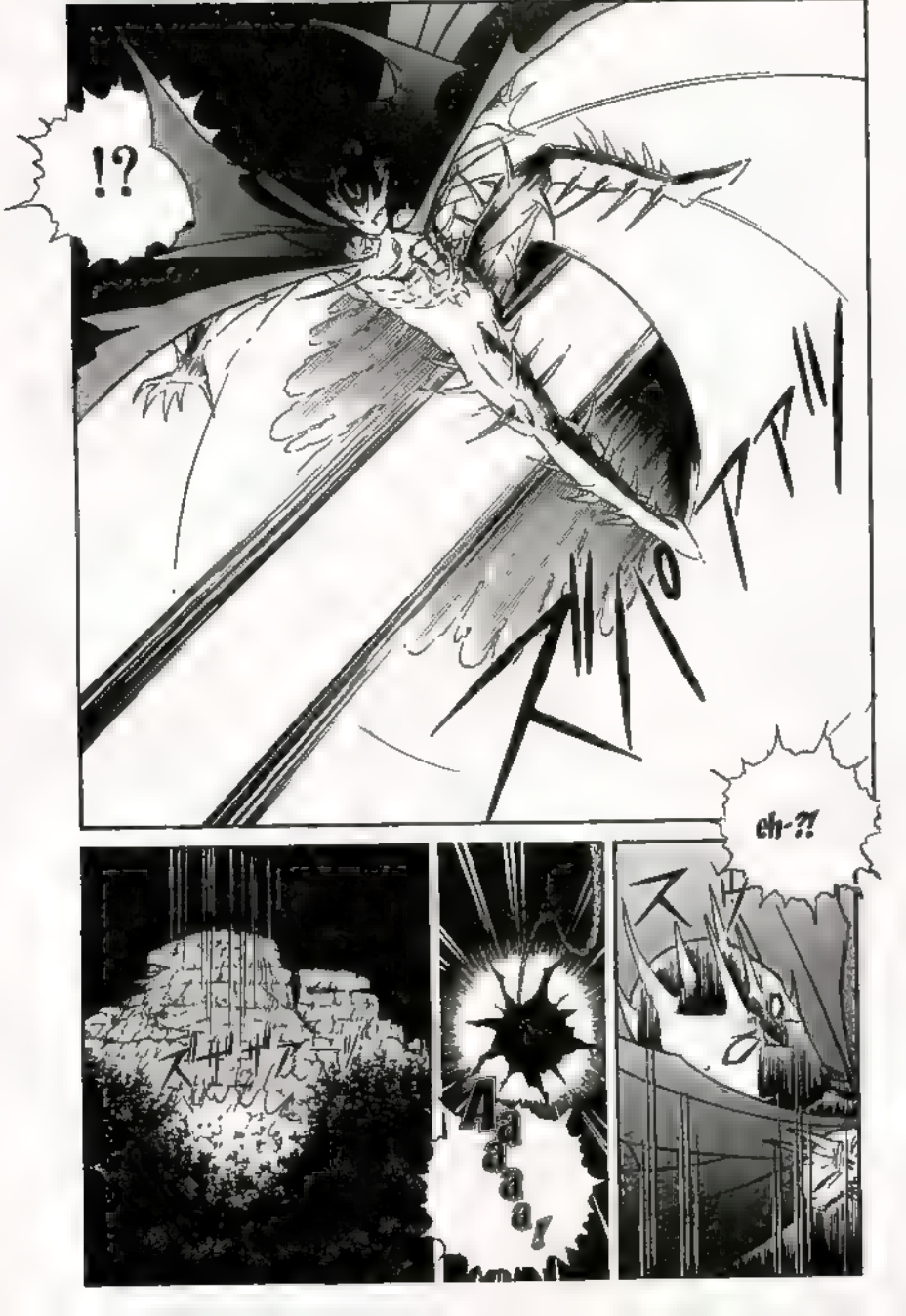
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
...WOULD PROBABLY KNOW THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO TAKE DOWN MALEBOLGIA!
SOMEONE LIKE THAT...
.....
CHANCES ARE GOOD HE'S A VERITABLE LIBRARY OF SKILLS AND INFORMATION.
BUT HE'S DEFINITELY NOT YOUR EVERYDAY SPAWN.
tee-hee-hee SO SIMPLE MINDED AND EASY TO MANIPULATE.


YOU SENT HIM TO *THE PLACE* THAT'S LIKE COMMITTING *SUICIDE*, RIGHT?
BEE? I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE HOME.
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO NOT TAIL HIM?
?
STOP DREDGING-UP THE PISS-ASS PAST.
THERE WERE "INCIDENTS" OVER THE LAST 500 YEARS...
OH, WAIT! THAT'S RIIIGHT!
...IT WOULD'VE BEEN PRUDENT TO AT LEAST TELL THE KID TO "*EXERCISE ALL DUE CAUTION*," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
DON'T YOU THINK...
DID MALEBOLGIA *REALLY* CUT YOUR ARMS OFF?
HNPH.
DIDN'T I?
EH?


...DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT IF HE DECIDES TO CHARGE IN LIKE HE USUALLY DOES, HE'S DEAD ON ARRIVAL. IT'D BE SAD...
DOESN'T CONCERN ME ONE WAY OR THE NEXT.
GAME OVER, MAN.
IF HE DIES, WE'RE DONE.
LET THE CARDS FALL AS THEY MAY.
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
ACCORDING TO THE ADDRESS...
...IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE...

CAN'T PICTURE A HELL-SPAWN LIVING THERE--
THAT MOUNTAIN-TOP MANSION IS WHERE I'M GOING.
?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THE COSTUME!
!?


...A DIFFERENT RESPONSE.
BUT NOT BATTLE-CLAD...
I CAN SENSE SOME-THING.
FEAR? THE COS-TUME'S FEAR? BUT WHY--?
!


!?
スパアアア!!
eh-?!
スパアア
Aaaa
スパ

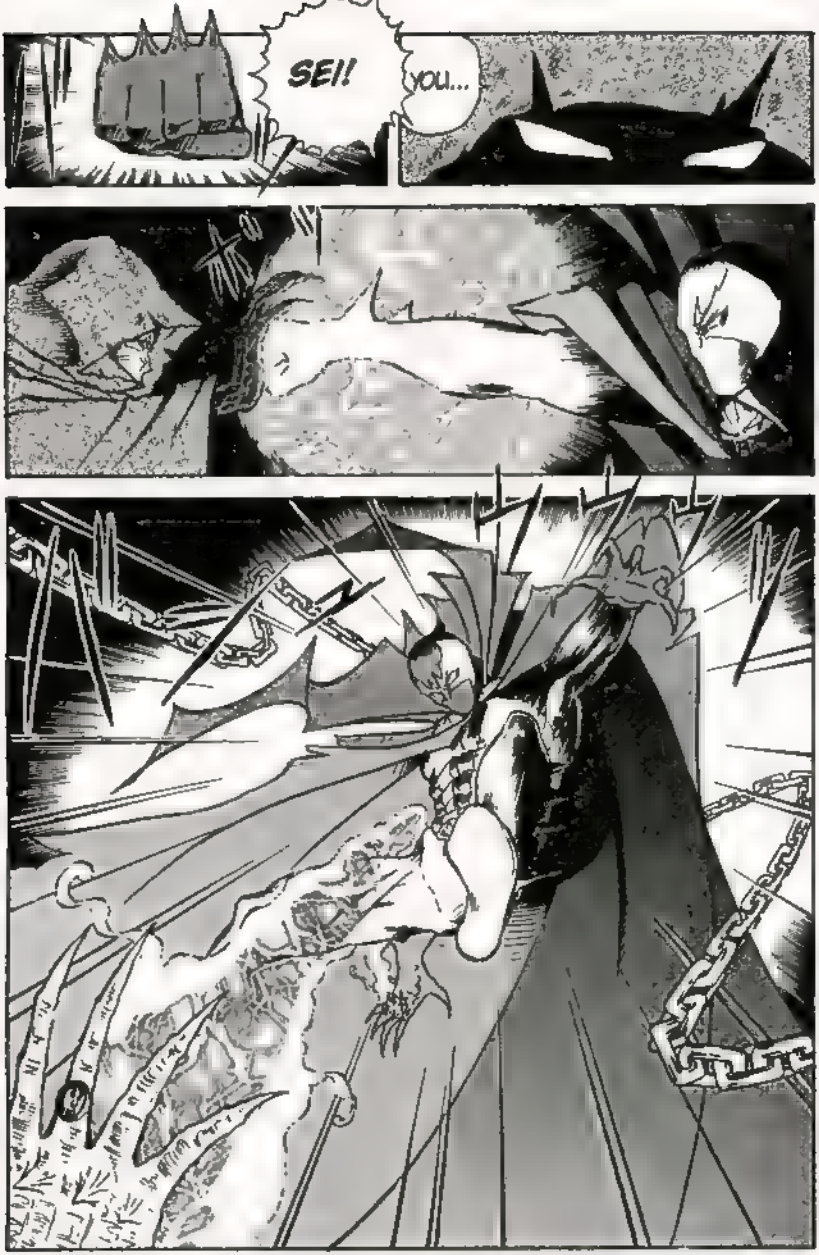
UGH...
AOOOO!
NGH!
!
DON'T MOVE.

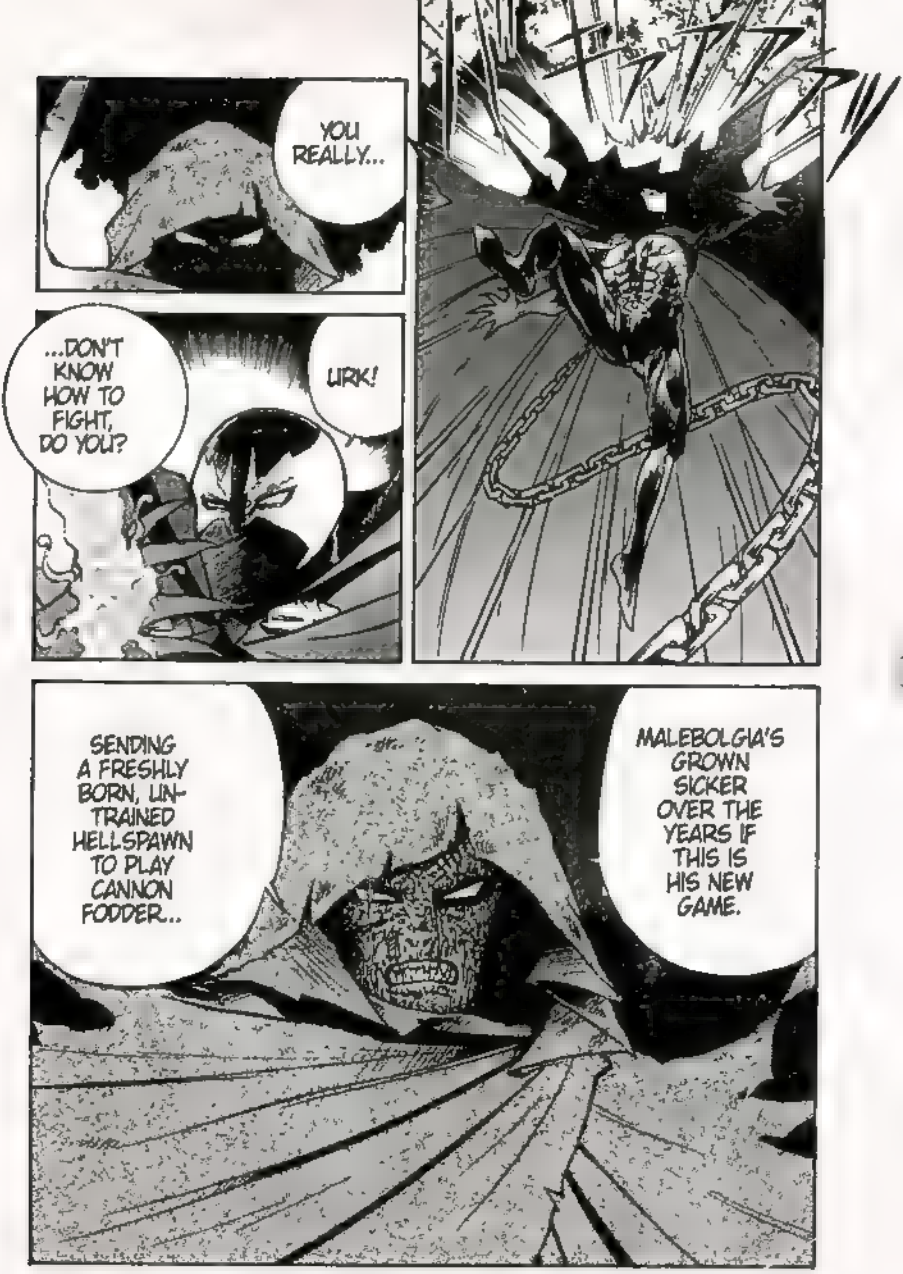
SO GET READY TO JOIN THE DECOMPOSED.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, THIS GUN HAS THE ABILITY TO REND PSYCHO-PLASM AS WELL AS THE FLESH.
I MAY EVEN LEAVE YOU WITH A FACE AS HANDSOME AS THIS!

BACK TO HELL, BOY.
SO THIS IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR RAISING ARMS AGAINST MALEBOLGIA.
A... ZOMBIE!
!!
BUT YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT SHOOTIN' AT ME, YOU ROTTED-OUT LUNATIC!
I CAN EASILY HANDLE THE LOOK.

RYA!
WOO-HOO! KARATE, EH?

HYA!
OKAY. OKAY. I GET IT ALREADY! YOU'RE PROUD OF YOUR KARATE.
RAH!
STOP BITCHING AND START FIGHTING, ZOMBIE!
TRYING TO LULL ME TO SLEEP?
HOW LONG YOU PLAN ON USING THE SAME TECHNIQUE AGAINST ME?
HEY.
HAAAAA--
DON'T UNDERES-TIMATE ME, BOY.
?!
Swish!


SE!
you...


YOU REALLY...
...DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT, DO YOU?
URK!
SENDING A FRESHLY BORN, UN-TRAINED HELLSPAWN TO PLAY CANNON FODDER...
MALEBOLGIA'S GROWN SICKER OVER THE YEARS IF THIS IS HIS NEW GAME.

YOU'RE THE ONE VIOLATOR SENT ME TO LOOK FOR.
YOU.
!?
...BUT NOW I'VE GOTTA KILL YOU AGAIN.
SORRY, KIDDO. I WAS GONNA LET YOU LIVE...
NO. IT'S NOT LIKE-
VIOLATOR? SO YOUR HIS UNDER-LING, THEN?
MORE THAN ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THAT COSTUME AND THE PSYCHO-PLASM INSIDE!
AND THIS CHAINSAW IS JUST THE TICKET!
W-WAI-

HOLD ON JUST A SECOND!
WAIT!

WHAT'S TO WAIT FOR?!
...WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU, BOY?!
THEN...
JUST HEAR ME OUT, PLEASE! I'M NOT SOME HELLION HENCHMAN!
HNNN?
ASK YOU TO SHOW ME THE WAY THE SPAWNS TRULY FIGHT!
I WAS TOLD TO SEEK YOU OUT!

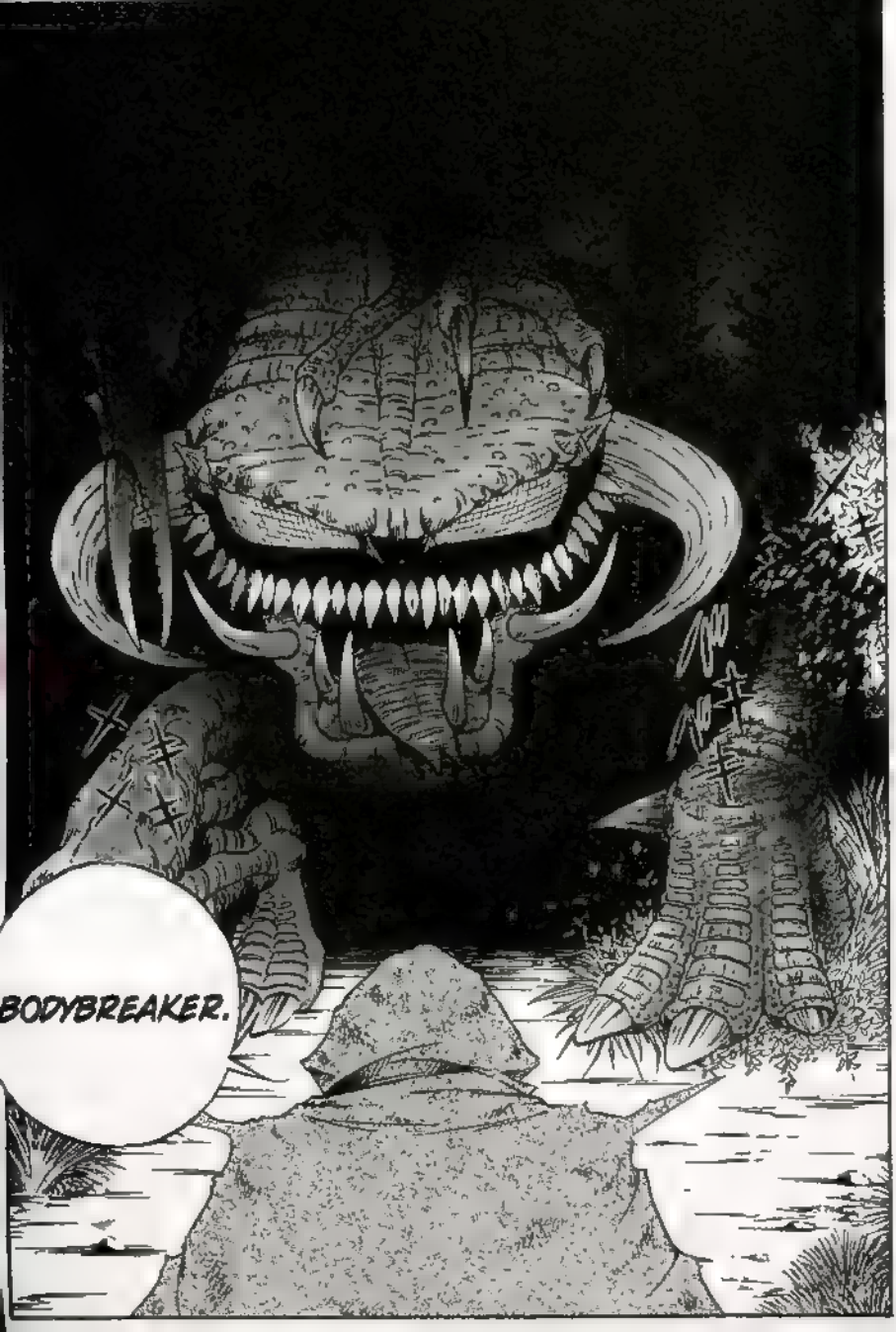
WHY IS THE VIOLATOR TOSSING HIS LITTLE MINIONS THIS WAY?
STOP PLAYING, SCRUB!
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING--
WILL YOU JUST STOP AND LISTEN!

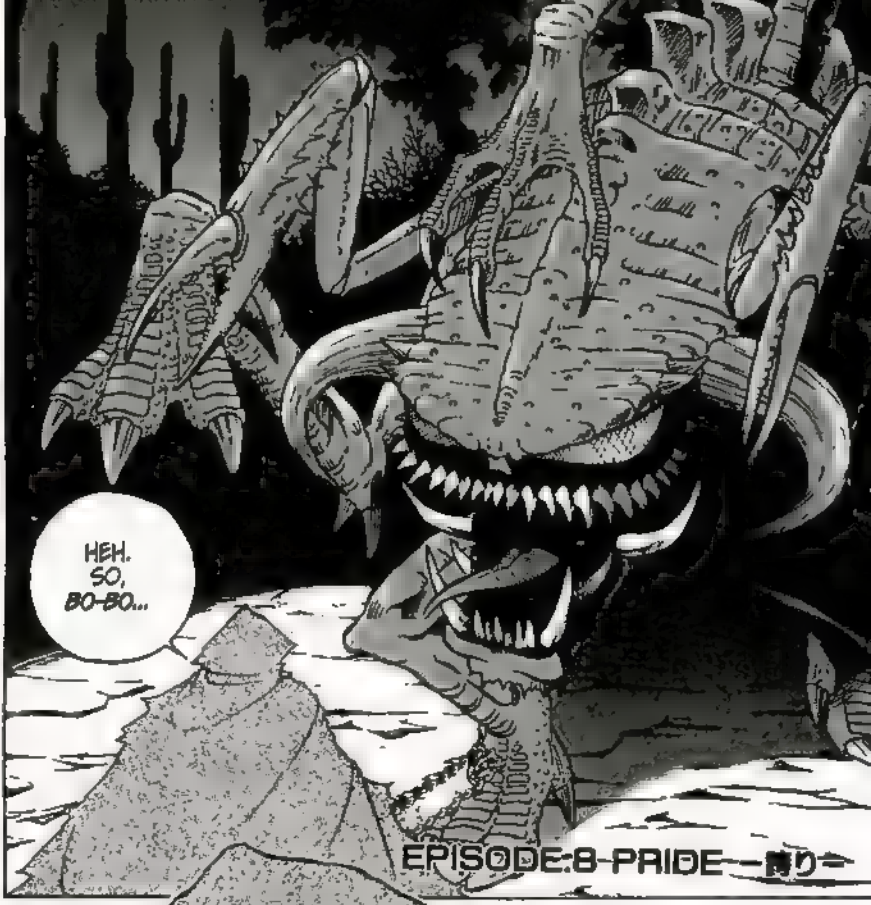
!
SHYLUU
AREN'T WE FEISTY?
WHEW!
MY NAME IS KEN KUROSAWA.

...TO THIS TALE OF YOURS.
I'LL LISTEN...
VERY WELL.
JAPANESE, EH?
KUROSAWA.
I'M KNOWN AS CHEVEYO.
I COME FROM THE ORAIBI. A PLACE SETTLED LONG AGO IN THE BLACK MESA.
WOW

THERE'S NO WAY I'VE FOUND TO ESCAPE MALEBOLGIA'S CURSE.
IT'S HOPELESS.
BEST TO JUST HANG IT UP NOW.
FUTILE?
MY 500 YEAR STREAK OF FUTILE RESISTENCE.
YES.
BUT... YOU'VE STOOD UP TO HIM FOR 500 YEARS...
FOR SOME REASON, I DON'T IMAGINE YOU AS HAVING THAT SAME LEVEL OF RESOLVE.
EVEN WHILE KNOWING IT'S ALL BUT POINTLESS, I CONTINUE TO FIGHT.
SAY YOU SUCCEED AND SHE EVENTUALLY SUCCUMBS TO OLD AGE.
YOU SAY YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR SISTER.
?

MALEBOLGIA'S SCHEMES, WHICH I NOW SEE VERY CLEARLY, WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ROOT AND BRING HELL TO THIS WORLD.
YOU'D LOSE YOUR REASON FOR FIGHTING, AND IN DOING SO, YOU'D LOSE SIGHT OF THIS BATTLE'S KEY OBJECTIVE.
IS THAT SO?
I'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF LETTING MALEBOLGIA WIN.
DON'T PATRONIZE ME!
DO YOU THINK I CAN WASTE MY TIME TRAINING ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF?
SEEMS YOU'RE NOT MY ONLY VISITOR THIS EVE.
BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO DEAL WITH A NEW PUPIL JUST YET.
MIGHT BE TRUE.
KRUSH!
KRUSH!
KRUSH!
YOU AGAIN?!
THIS ISN'T A MATTER FOR GREENIES TO GET INVOLVED WITH.
BEST NOT MOVE.
KRUSH!
!
chak chak chak
chak chak


BODYBREAKER.



EPISODE:8-PRIDE—前り—

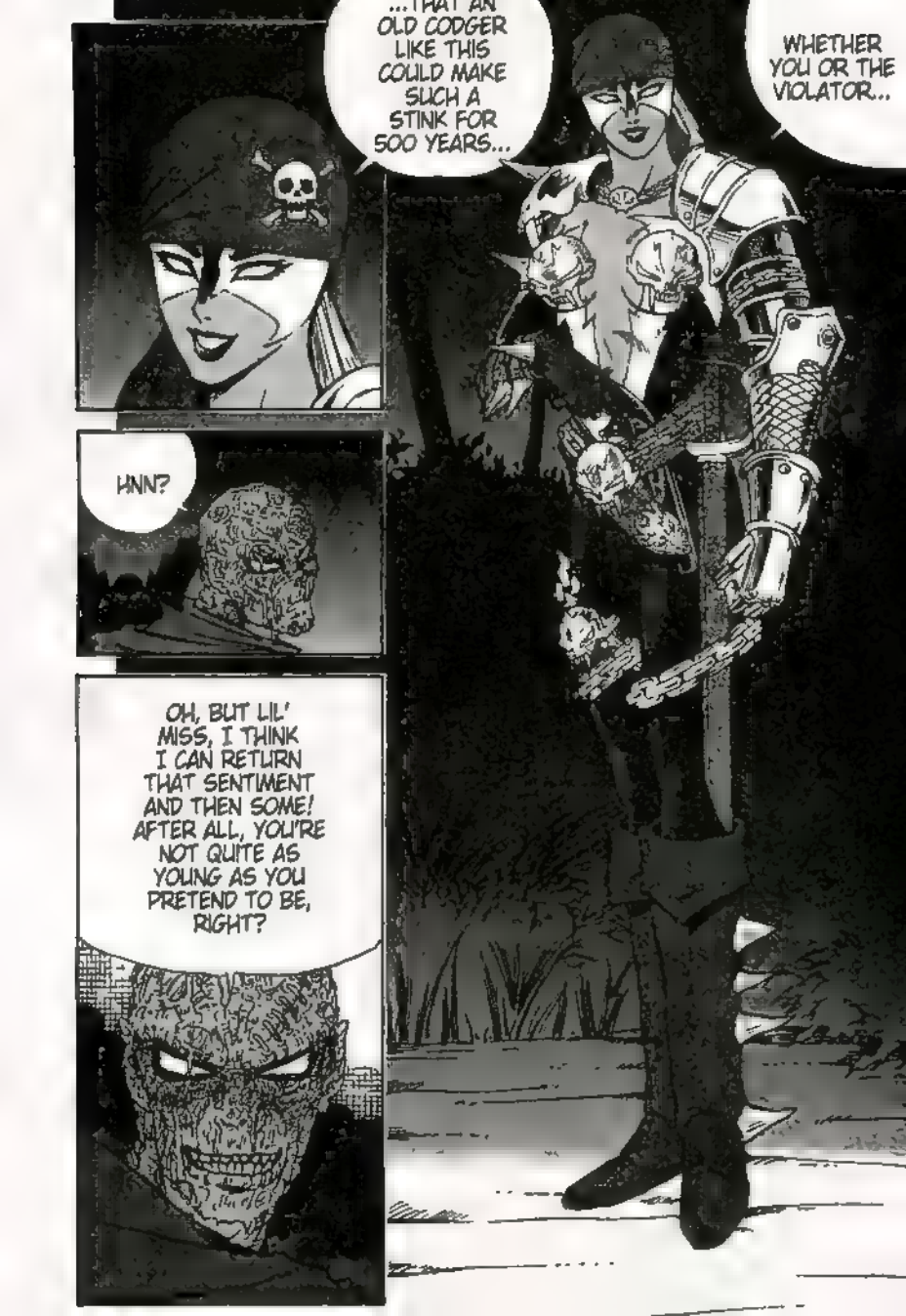
THIS IS AN UNFAIR FIGHT IN MY FAVOR.
HRMPH. A CHAINSAW? USING SUCH DIRTY TOOLS THESE DAYS.
ALL IT MEANS IS IT'S YOUR IDIOTIC BRAWN AGAINST MY VERSATILE BRAIN.
IT'S PLENTY GOOD 'NUFF FOR YOU.
FOOL! HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK I'LL FALL FOR THE SAME TRICKS?!
NOW LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T SHEAR OFF SOME OF THOSE EXTRA APPENDAGES OF YOURS!

VrOoooom!
VrooOm!
VrOoooom!
I'D MADE A FEW MODIFICATIONS SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER.
GYA-HA-HA-HA!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
?!

I TRUST EVEN A SILVER CHAIN-SAW DOESN'T FARE WELL AGAINST SUCH A THING.
TRADED-UP TO A STEEL CLAW.
NEED A HAND?
GH!
STAY BACK, YOUNG'UN. YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.
?!

HNPH. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO A JACK-ASS OUTTA HELL.
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO--
YOU LOOK A LOT TASTIER THAN THIS GRIZZLY OLD MAN, TOO.
NYE-HEH-HEH. YOU'VE GOT SPUNK, RUNT. I GIVE YOU THAT.
ALL A TOUCH OF THEATER AND MISDIR-ECTION, LAD.
IS THAT A GOOD IDEA? I JUST CAN'T SEE YOU AS BEING IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION, HERE.
BEST SPLIT BEFORE YOU GET WRAPPED-UP IN SOMETHING YOU CAN'T HANDLE, BOY.
NOW THE MAIN ACT BEGINS!

!?!
ホホ
A PARTNER?
...SOMEONE WITH A STEADY HAND.
HEH, HEH, HEH. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A KNACK FOR THE DRAMATIC. I, TOO, MADE PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS...
YOU *PHLEBIACS* SEEM TO BE GREATLY OVERRATED.
HNH. BREAKER.


...THAT AN OLD CODGER LIKE THIS COULD MAKE SUCH A STINK FOR 500 YEARS...
WHETHER YOU OR THE VIOLATOR...
HNN?
OH, BUT LIL' MISS, I THINK I CAN RETURN THAT SENTIMENT AND THEN SOME! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT QUITE AS YOUNG AS YOU PRETEND TO BE, RIGHT?

WHAT DOES MATTER IS THAT I WEAR MY YOUTH WELL... AND THAT I DON'T SHARE THE SAME, SHRIVELED VISAGE OF A ZOMBIE.
WHEN I WAS BORN IS IRRELEVANT.
YOU'RE CALEB, FROM THE 18TH CENTURY. AM I RIGHT?
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WILL YOU DIE? OR WILL YOU REFUSE TO DIE? AND EVEN AMONG THOSE, THIS IS A FIRST-CLASS VILLAIN.
DID THE ENTRANCE TO HELL HAVE TWO LINES FOR THE SEXES?
IS THAT A HELLSPAWN, TOO? LOOKS LIKE A LADY.
GOT A MOUTH ON YOU, THAT'S FOR SURE.
?!
...SO THAT'S YOUR GAME...
I LEAVE THE OLD COOT TO YOU, BUDDY!
THAT'S FINE. BUT THE PSYCHOPLASM FROM THE YOUNG ONE IS MINE, TOO, GOT IT?
SHE'S KNOWN AS CALEB. MADE HER LIVING AS A VICIOUS PIRATE OF THE FAIRER PERSUASSION.

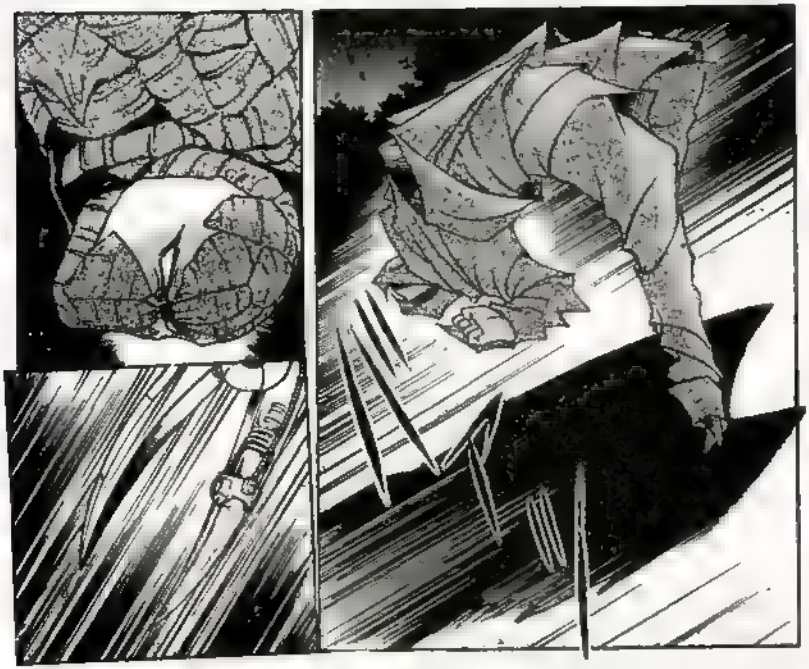
...A BAD THING...
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE...
YOU'RE JUST A DAMN VAMPIRE!
YOU WANT TO STEAL THE PSYCHO-PLASM FROM THE KID JUST TO PROLONG YOUR FALSE "YOUTH"...
AM I WRONG?!
IS THIS NOT THE EXISTENCE OF THE HELLSPAWN?!
TO LIVE FOREVER! TO FIGHT FOREVER! TO KILL FOREVER!
...NOW...
THAT'S... RIGHT...

WE FIGHT!
FOR NOW--
?!
SHE'S RIGHT, YOUNG'UN.
WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING!

!?
YOU SHOW-OFF.
OLD MAN.
URK!

HEY, PIP-SQUEAK. YOU DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF WATCHING YON BATTLE.
!!
IS THIS THE "TRUE" FIGHTING POWER OF THE SPAWN HE SPOKE OF?
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT--

HAAAA!



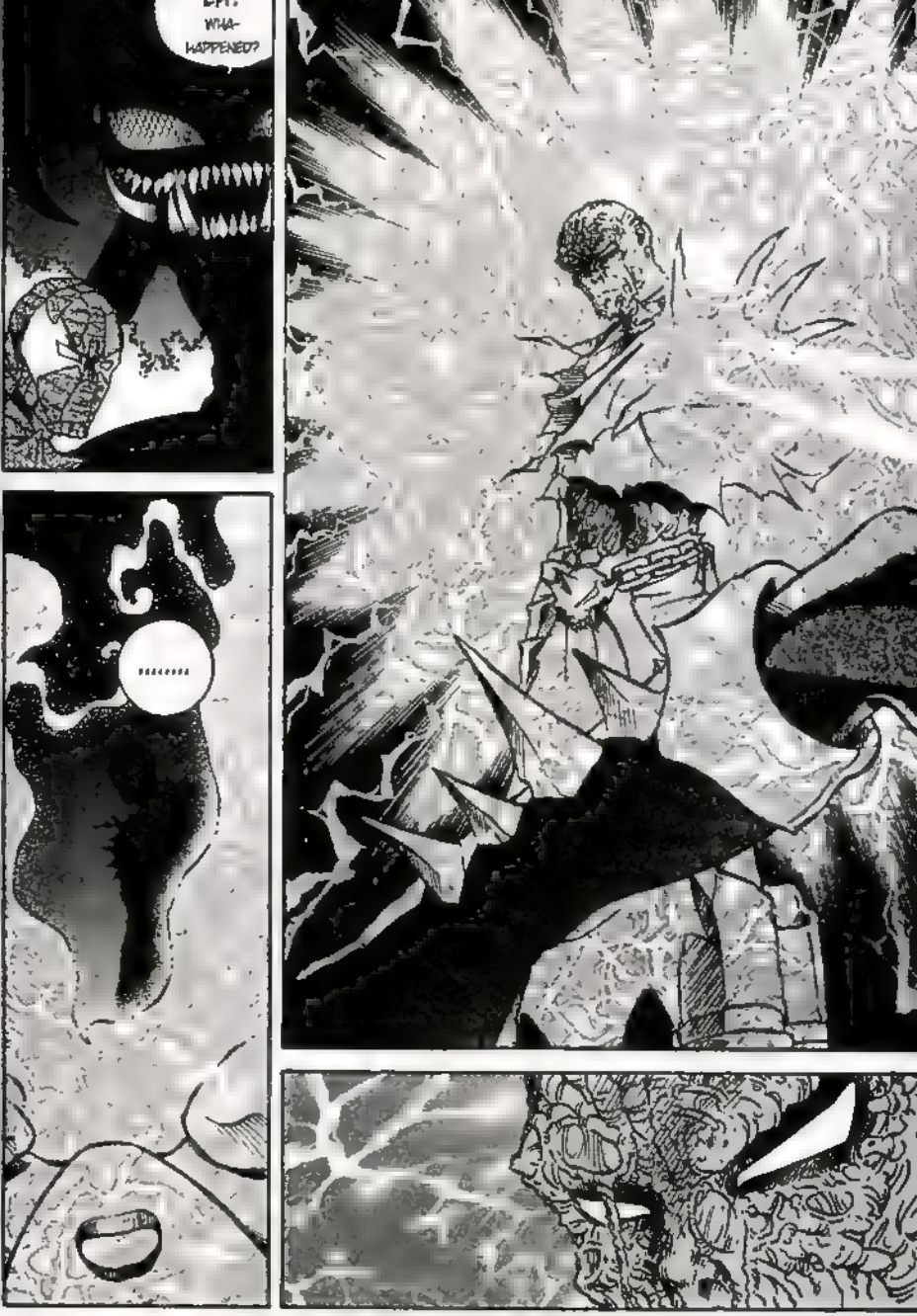
LITTLE CHICK-CHICK HAS TENDER LITTLE WINGS TO FLY AWAY WITH!
OH, YOU ARE GOING TO BE DELICIOUS!
CRUNCHY, BUT DE-LICIOUS!
OW OW OW!
OW!
HEH.
KRAK!

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO WATCH OTHERS, EITHER!
WHEW!
YOU--
I WON'T WASTE MY PRECIOUS PSYCHOPLASM JUST TO OFF ONE OLD FART LIKE YOU!
OH, SHUT-UP!
YOU SO STINGY WITH YOUR PSYCHO-PLASM YOU'LL FIGHT WITH THAT OLD THING?
HA! A CUTLASS?!
200 YEARS OF FIGHTING. TWO CENTURIES OF EXQUISITE BEAUTY...
NRGH!
I'M NOT SO LIBERAL WITH ITS USE AS YOU SEEM TO BE!

YOU!!!
YOU--
I'LL BET THAT FIRST LITTLE CROW'S FOOT WOULD DRIVE YOU INSANE. HOW CUTE!
?!
EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS A STORY BE-HIND IT. EVERY ONE, A BADGE OF HONOR.
LOOK AT THIS CHISELED, TORN FACE OF MINE. EVERY LAST SCAR CARRIES WITH IT A MEMORY. A REASON.
TOTAL NONSENSE.
PRIDE? A HELLSPAWN?
I'VE "EARNED" THESE THINGS YOU DESPISE SO... ONE BY ONE. I WEAR THEM WITH PRIDE.
ONE LIKE YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND

THIS IS MALEBOLGIA'S SNARE, AND YOU'VE FALLEN HEADLONG INTO IT!
TO DEFEND LIFE OR TO DEFEND "YOUTH"--
THIS IS THE FATE THAT AWAITS YOU!
LOOK AT THIS, YOUNG ONE!
YOU WILL ULTIMATELY SHARE THE SAME, PATHETIC EXISTENCE OF THIS CARRIBEAN PIRATE!
WHEN YOU'VE LOST SIGHT OF WHY IT IS YOU FIGHT... WHEN YOU FIGHT ONLY FOR YOURSELF--

YOU, BASTARD!
shak
DON'T FRET.
THIS IS THE FATE...
...OF ALL HELLSPAWN.
!


EP!
WHA-
HAPPENED?
.....

I AM NOTHING LIKE HER!
I'LL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF MY TRUE ENEMY!
NOT SO LONG AS I'M ANCHORED BY THE NEED TO DEFEAT HIM.
I WON'T SHARE HER FATE.
I'LL DEAL WITH HIM, TOO.
OF COURSE.
WHAT'RE YOU YABBERING ABOUT?
YOU TALKING ABOUT BO-BO, THERE?
TO VANQUISH THAT ONE OPPONENT...
THIS IS MY DESTINY.

THAT IS MY DESTINY!
NOTHING WILL STOP ME.
TO RIGHT THIS WRONG IS MY REASON TO LIVE.
FROM DYING TO BEING RETURNED... I'M NOT SOME PLAY-THING.

I'LL KEEP AFTER HIM, FACE-TO-FACE, UNTIL IT IS FINALLY DONE.
UNTIL HE EXISTS NO MORE.
INTO ETERNITY, IF NEED BE.
YES.
WHATEVER TRIALS HE SETS BEFORE ME...
THE DEVIL WILL GET HIS DUE.

...I'LL BE AFTER HIM...
ゴゴゴゴ
...WITH EVERY OUNCE OF MY BEING!
OUCH! OUCH! OUCH! OUCH!
IMPRES-SIVE.

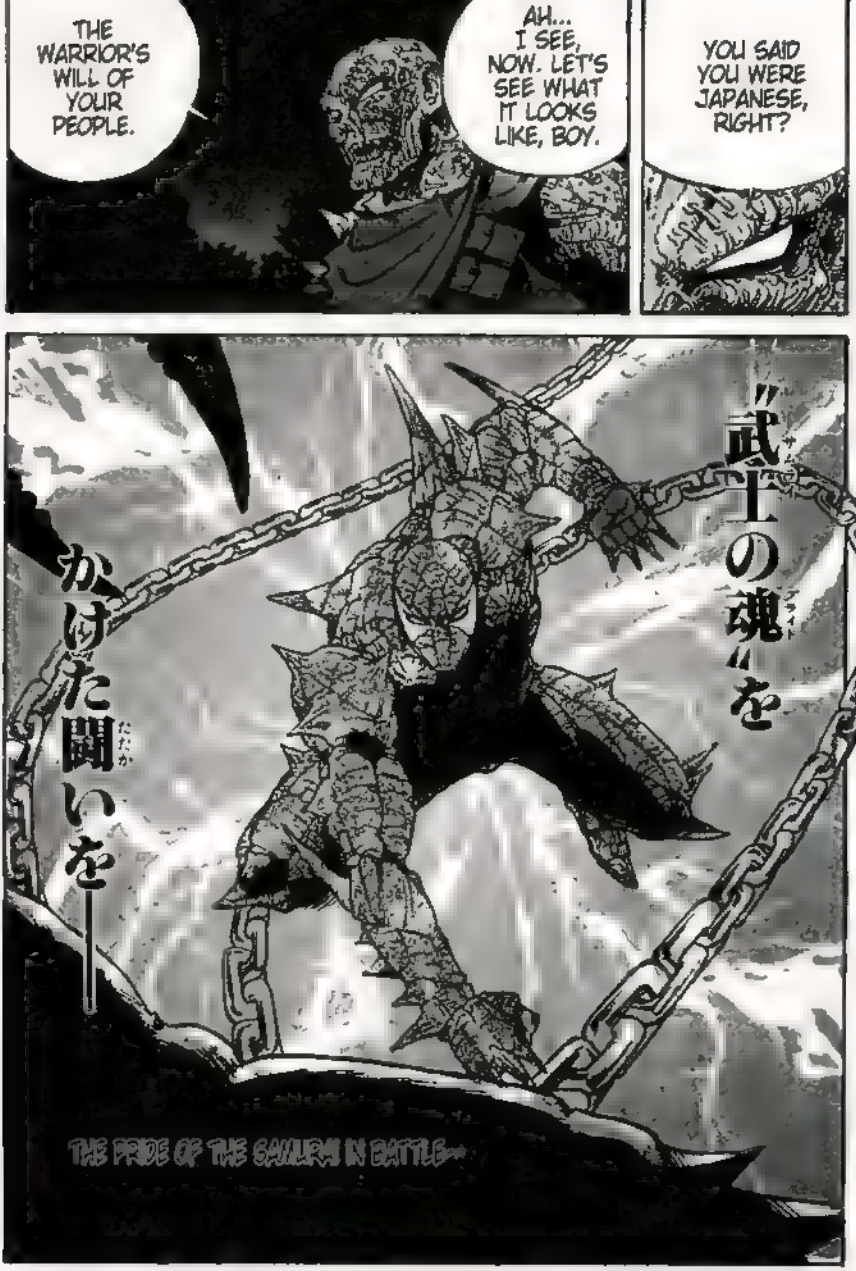
...LITTLE CHICKY CHICKY.
I'M NOT LIKING YOUR NEW DANCE...
...YOUR FLESH ISN'T LIKE BUTTAH...
WHICH ISN'T TO SAY...
NRG!

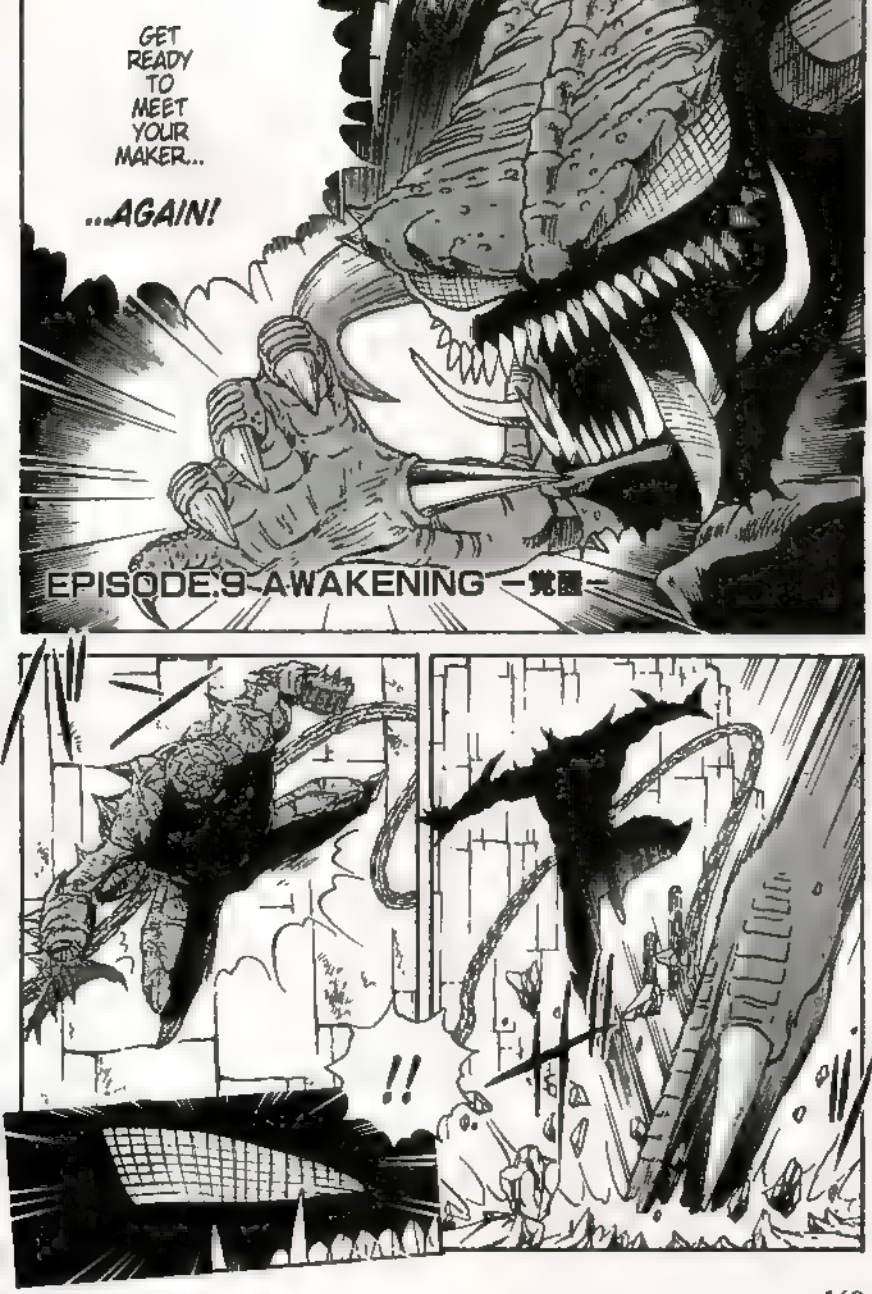
I CAN'T CONVINCE MYSELF YOU'RE IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION, HERE.
SHALL I LEND A HAND?
BRAVE WORDS, BOY, BUT THE WAY THIS FIGHT IS GOING, YOU'LL BE DYING LIKE THE COMMON DOG.
TWO AGAINST ONE. ISN'T THAT AGAINST YOUR VAUNTED CODE OF HONOR?
THAT'S FOUL PLAY, ZOMBIE.
DON'T INTERFERE. STAY OUT OF THIS!
I'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF DOING THAT...
IF I WERE TO ACCEPT YOUR HELP, HERE, THEN I'D FORSAKE MY OWN FATE AGAINST HIM.

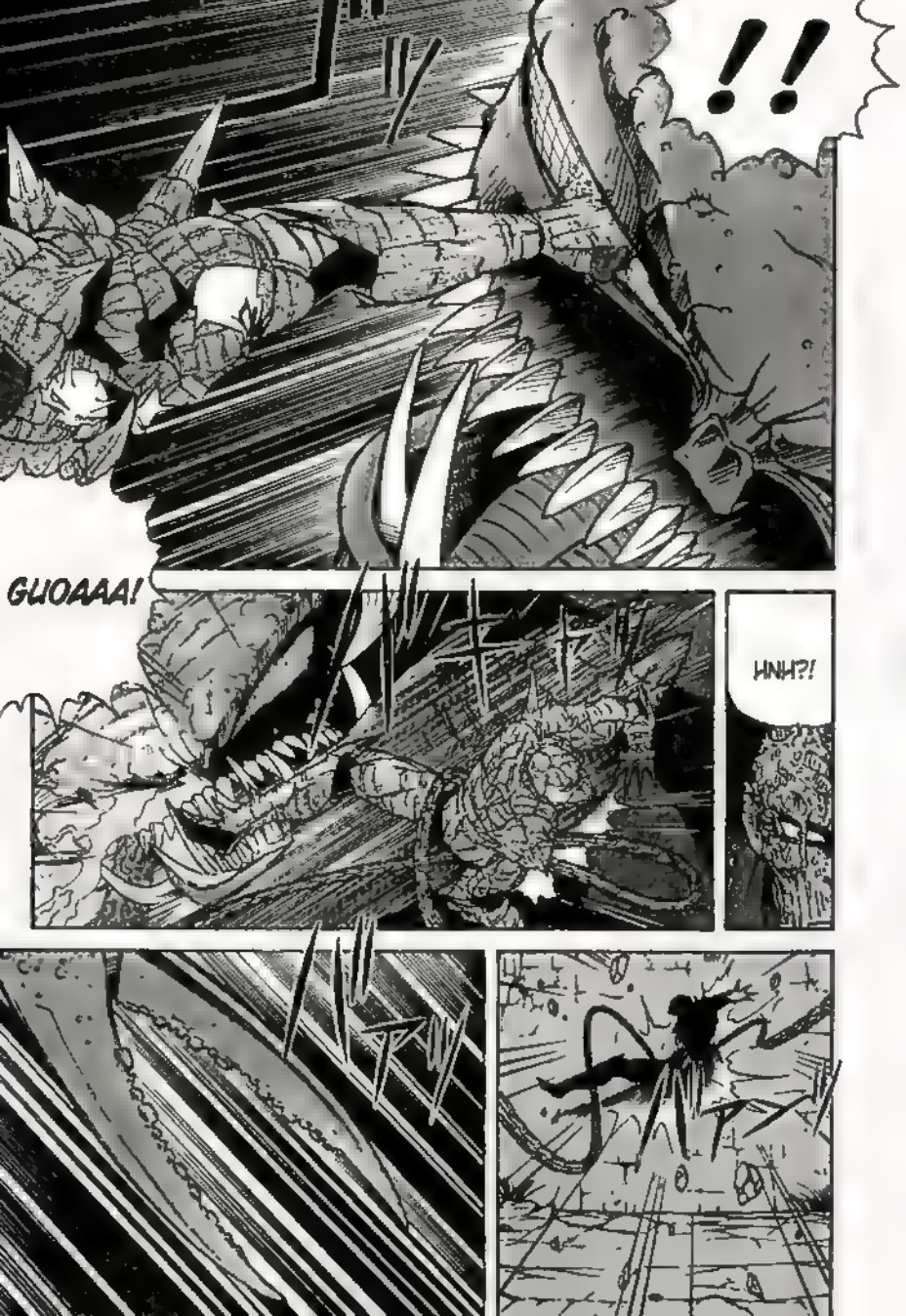
NOW OR EVER!
!!
IN A PURELY PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION, I'VE GOT A CHANCE.
IF HIS LIMBS AREN'T IMBUED WITH PSYCHOPLASM, I CAN FIGHT HIM WITH KARATE.
I WILL NOT LOSE.
MY FATE ISN'T SEALED, YET.

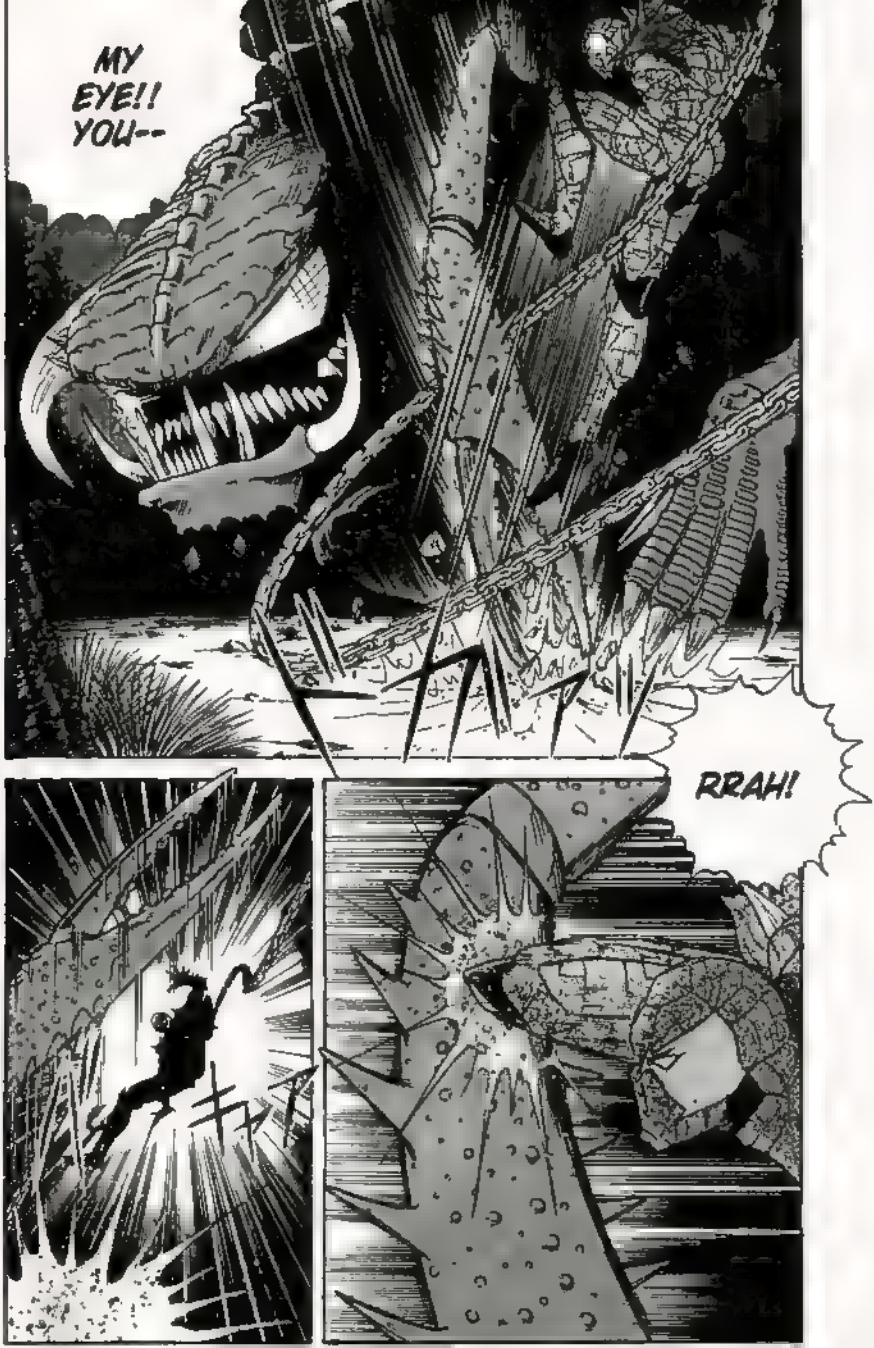
GIVE ME YOUR WORD... TELL ME YOU WILL NOT INTERFERE, NO MATTER WHAT!
BRAVE JIBBER-JABBER FROM A BRATTY BALL OF MEAT.
VERY WELL.
THIS IS GETTING QUITE ENTER-TAINING.

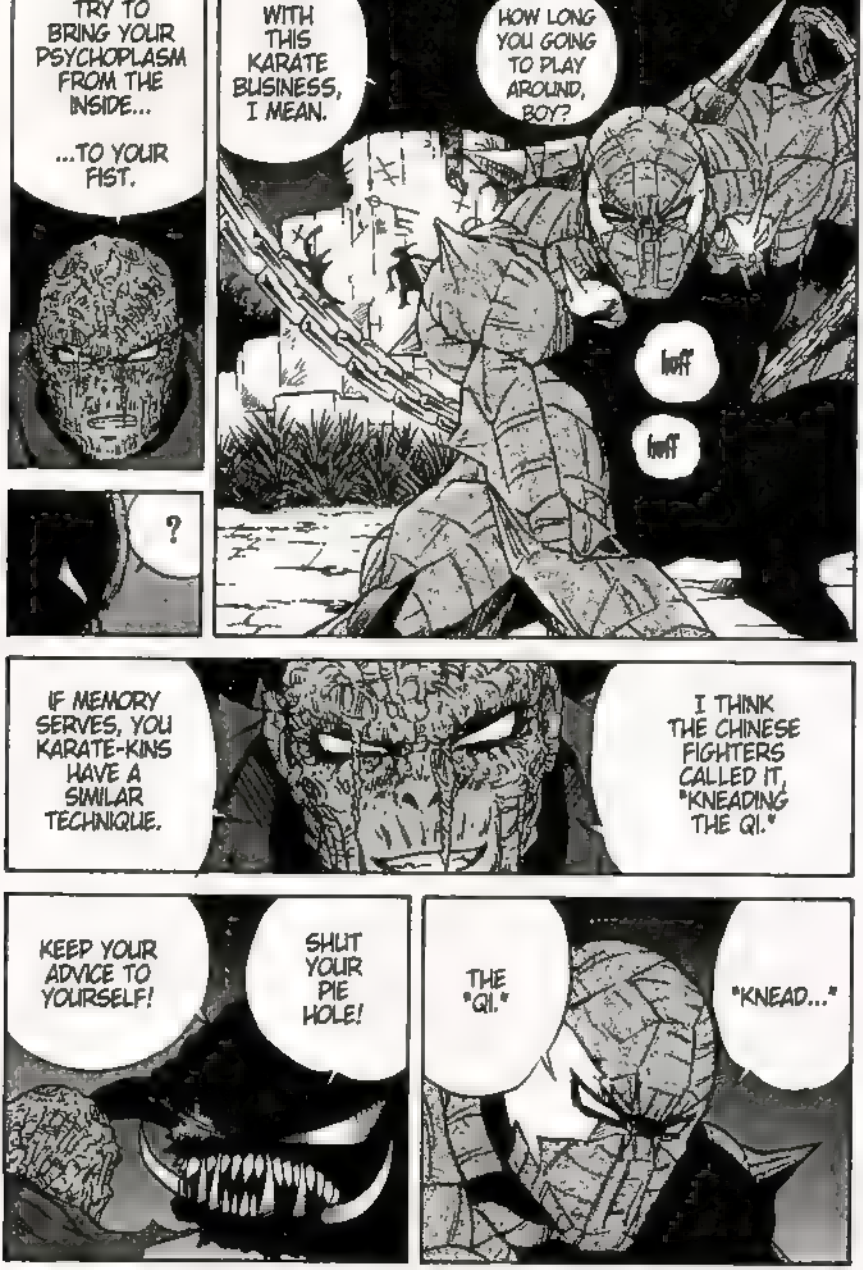
HAVE AT IT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
I GIVE MY WORD THAT MY HAND WILL NOT TOUCH THIS FIGHT.
STOP FOOLING AROUND--
HEH, HA! THIS IS GETTING FUN, BOY! SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
RUNT!
ドゴォ!!


THE WARRIOR'S WILL OF YOUR PEOPLE.
AH... I SEE, NOW. LET'S SEE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, BOY.
YOU SAID YOU WERE JAPANESE, RIGHT?
"武士の魂"を
かけた闘いを——
THE PRIDE OF THE SAMURAI IN BATTLE—


GET READY TO MEET YOUR MAKER...
...AGAIN!
EPISODE.9-AWAKENING -覚醒-
!!


!!
GUOAAA!
HNH?!

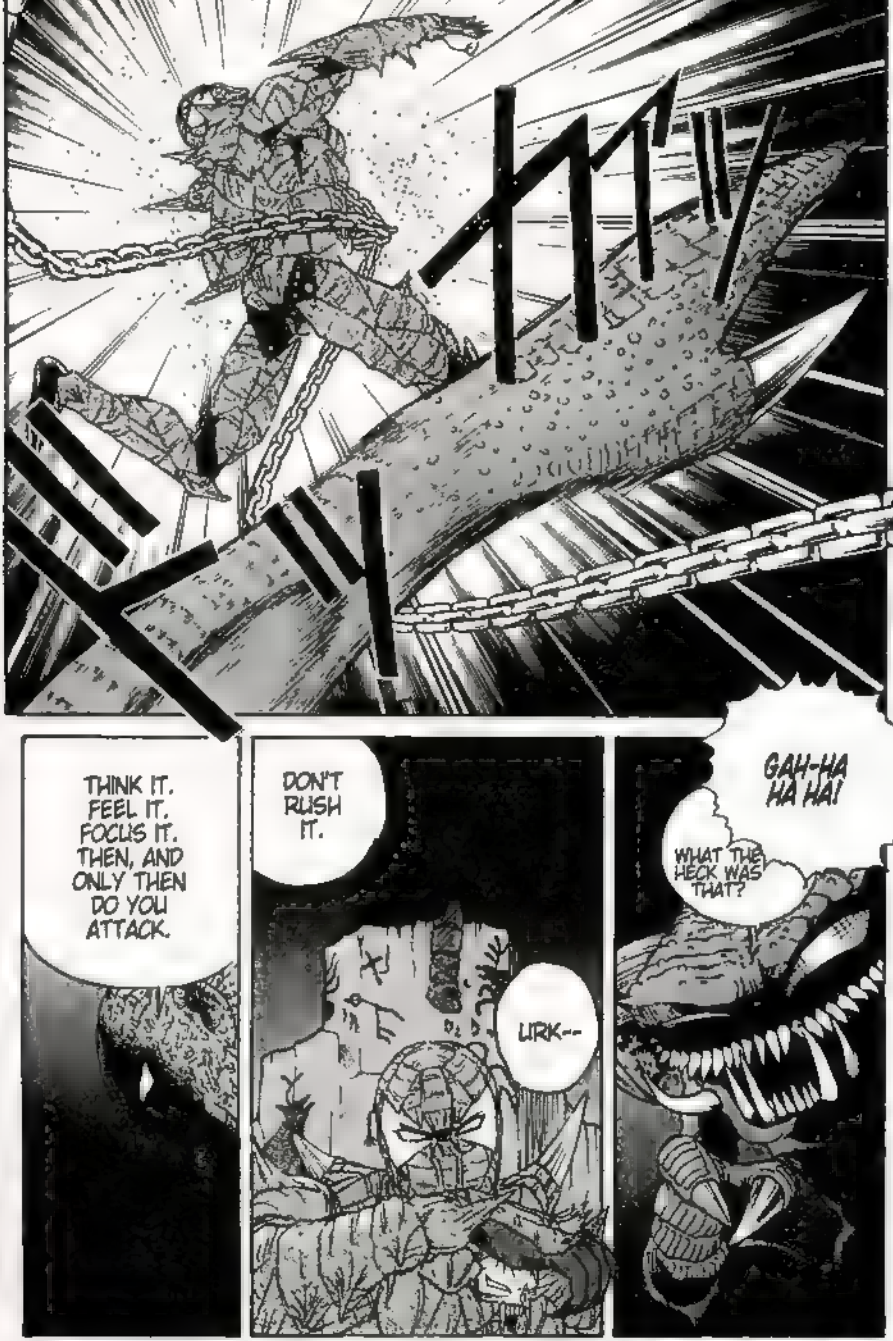

MY EYE!! YOU--
RRAH!


TRY TO BRING YOUR PSYCHOPLASM FROM THE INSIDE...
...TO YOUR FIST.
WITH THIS KARATE BUSINESS, I MEAN.
HOW LONG YOU GOING TO PLAY AROUND, BOY?
HUH?
HUH?
?
IF MEMORY SERVES, YOU KARATE-KINS HAVE A SIMILAR TECHNIQUE.
I THINK THE CHINESE FIGHTERS CALLED IT, "KNEADING THE QI."
KEEP YOUR ADVICE TO YOURSELF!
SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE!
THE "QI."
"KNEAD..."

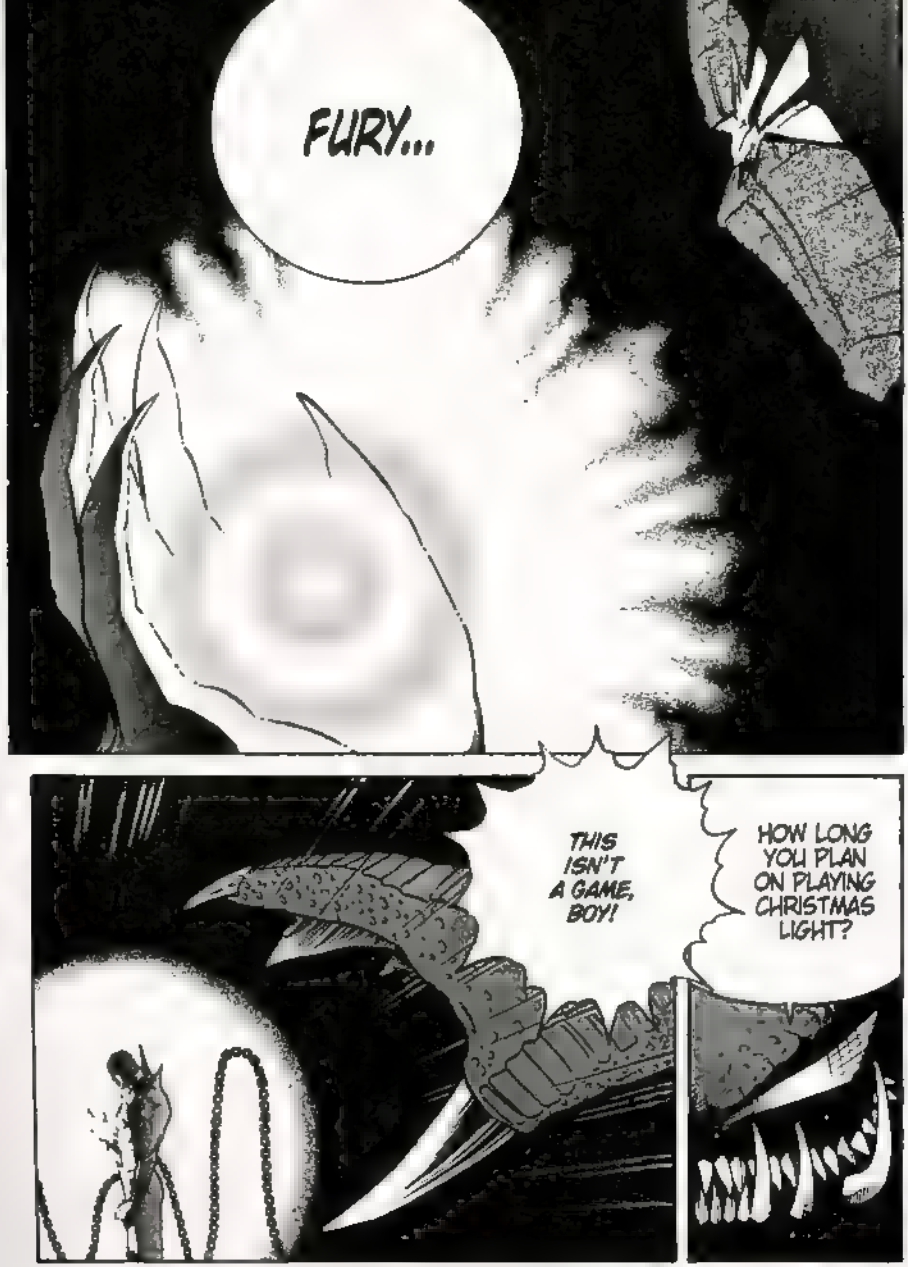
BUT EVEN IF HE UNDERSTOOD, IT'S NOT AS IF HE COULD EXECUTE SUCH A TECHNIQUE!
NEITHER HAND NOR LEG NOR WISDOM WILL YOU LEND MY DINNER!
...HE'LL BE DIGESTING IN MY BELLY!
BY THE TIME HE FIGURES IT OUT...
YOU THINK SO?
NOW CONCENTRATE!
YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS GOVERNS HOW THE PSYCHOPLASM WILL BEHAVE.
YOU LISTENING, BOY?

CHANNEL IT INTO YOUR FIST!
YOU MUST WILL IT!
IT FOLLOWS YOUR THOUGHTS!
CHANNEL IT.
WILL IT.
EVERY EMOTION YOU'VE EVER FELT... EVERY EMOTION YOU CAN POSSIBLY FEEL... GATHER IT ALL INTO THE HAMMER!
HATE!
ANGER!
SADNESS!

HATE.
SADNESS.
ANGER.
IS THIS IT?
!
WAIT! NOT YET!
HYAAAA!
RAHG!


THINK IT. FEEL IT. FOCUS IT. THEN, AND ONLY THEN DO YOU ATTACK.
DON'T RUSH IT.
URK--
GAH-HA HA HA!
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

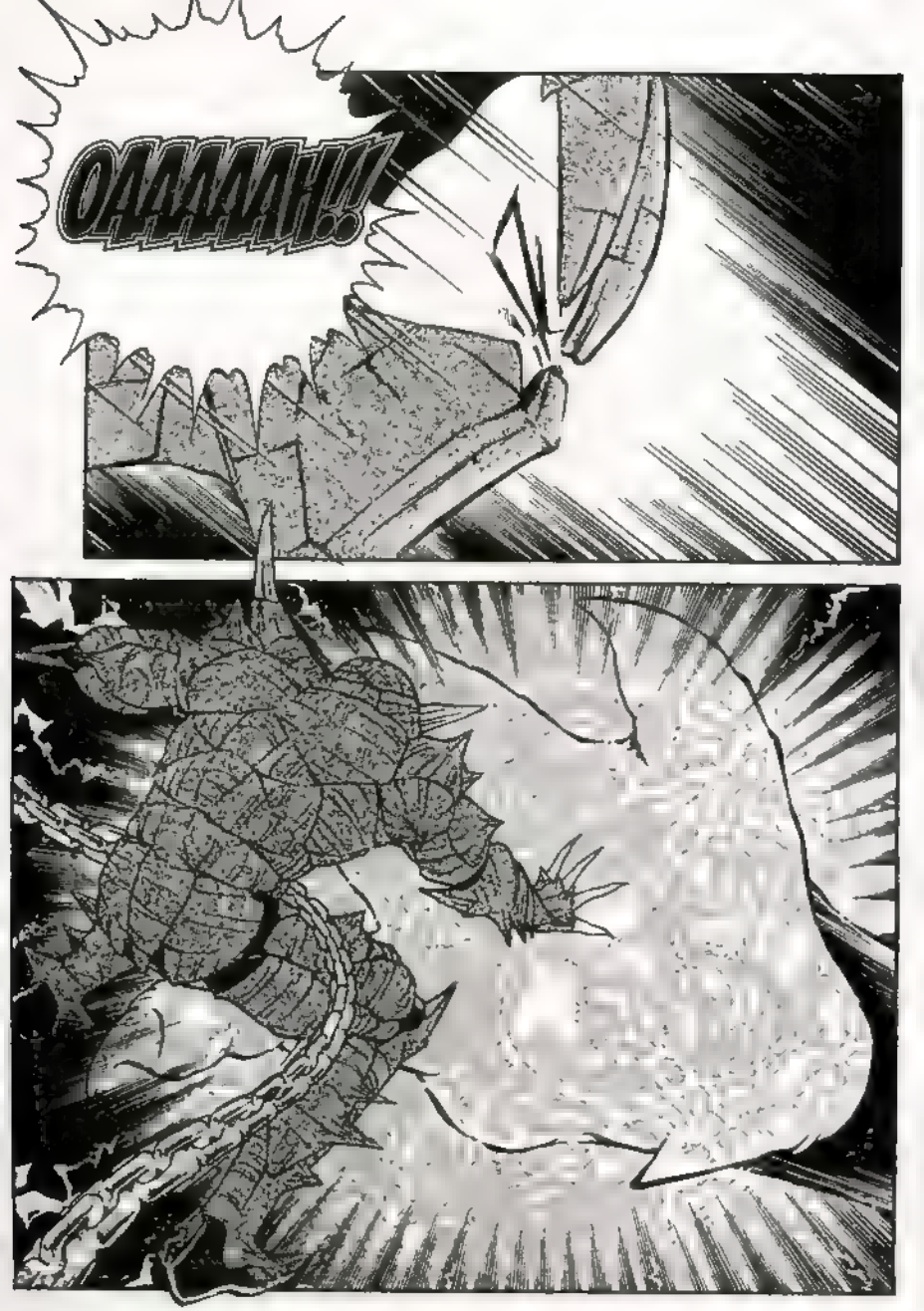
WHERE IS THE SADNESS?!
WHERE IS THE HATE?!
OR WAS THAT PATHETIC DISPLAY THE WHOLE OF YOUR BEING?
...WORKED...
...THAT SHOULD HAVE...
THAT...
IN ORDER TO TAKE ON THE LIKES OF MALEBOLGIA, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAP INTO THAT WELL OF SOULFIRE!
YOU CLAIM TO WANT TO MATCH FISTS AGAINST THE DEVIL! YOUR ENTIRE BODY SHOULD BE SWIRLING WITH EMOTIONS!
FIGHT WITH CONFIDENCE.
FIGHT WITH FURY.
!
YOUR FURY WILL PAVE THE WAY TO VICTORY!
YOUR CONFIDENCE WILL LEAD YOU INTO BATTLE!


FURY...
THIS ISN'T A GAME, BOY!
HOW LONG YOU PLAN ON PLAYING CHRISTMAS LIGHT?

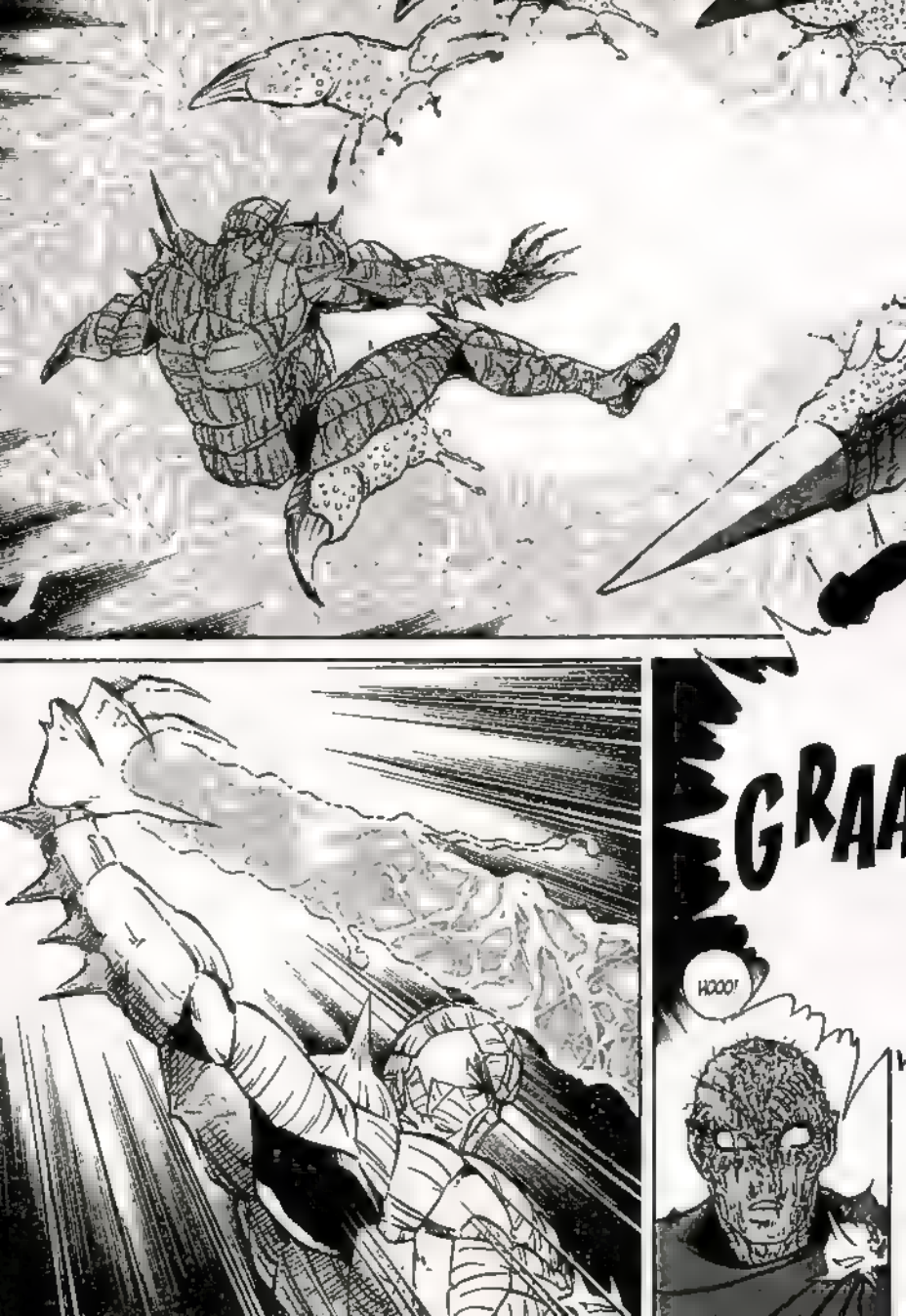
HAH.
...THE FURY TO CARRY ME INTO WAR...
...RAGE!
...FURY...
ANGER...

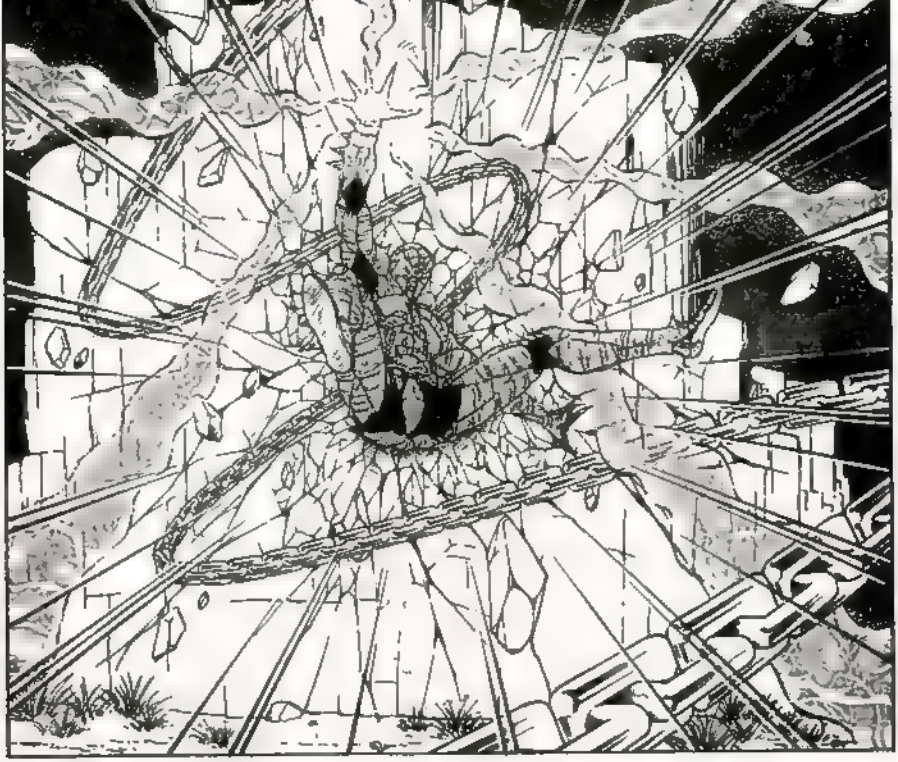
...CAN'T...
...BE...
IT...
WITH A THOUGHT!
NOW! LET LOOSE THAT ANGER THE SAME WAY YOU GATHERED IT!

おおお……
AS IF I'D EVEN LET YOU TRY!


OAAAAAH!!!

Hngh--
AA!


GRAA
HOOO!



UNH...

KID TRYING TO LEARN TO SHOOT WITH A .44 MAGNUM...
HEH.

HOW--
HOW COULD--
A LITTLE WHELP LIKE THAT...

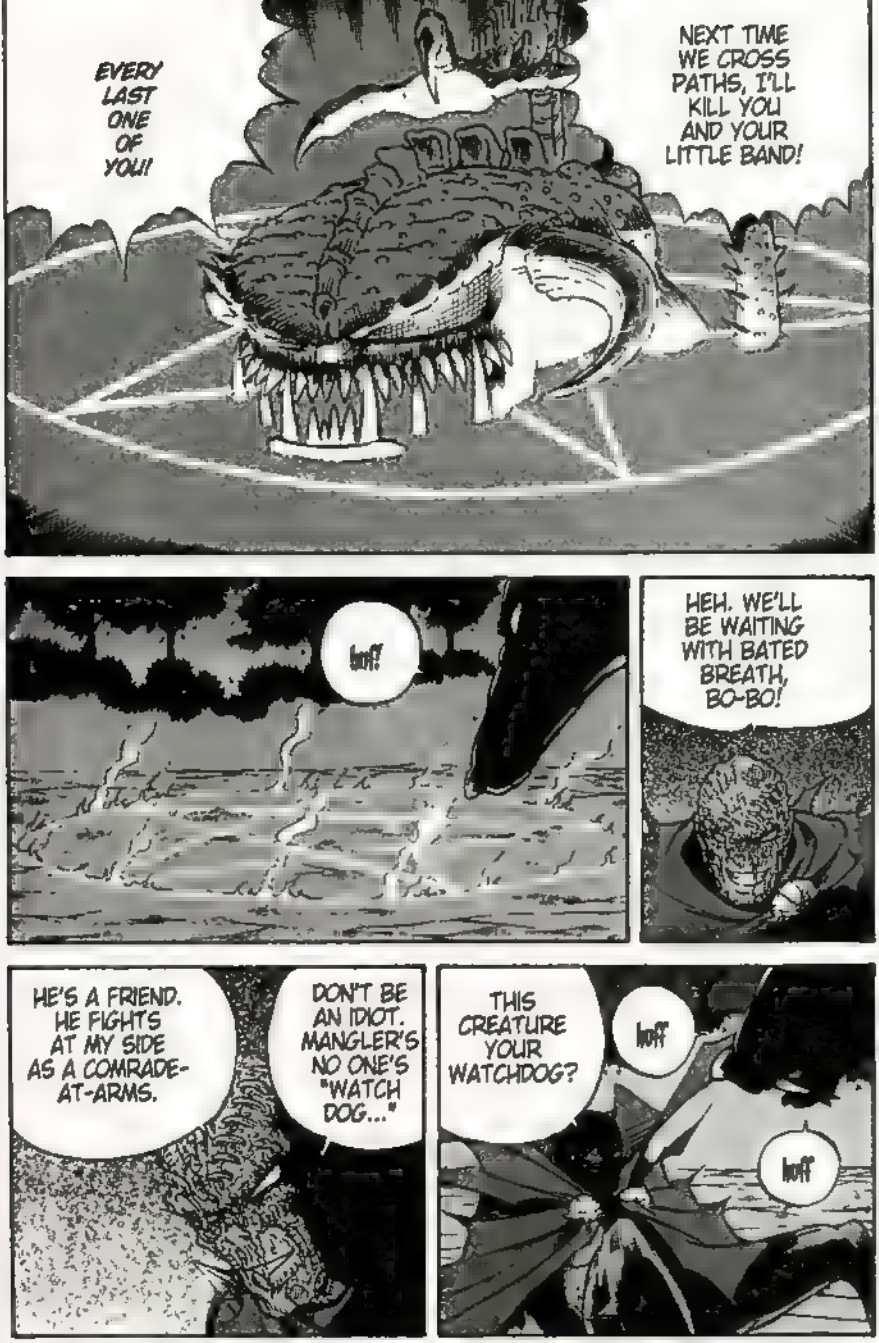
...FOR AN UNTRAINED SPAWN TO UNLEASH SO MUCH POWER IN THE FIRST GO...
IT'S IMPRES-SIVE...
HE'S NOT THE TYPICAL SHADOW OF SPAWN EVERY-ONE MAKES HIM OUT TO BE.
...HE'D RIVAL THE MOST POWER-FUL AMONG THE HELL-SPAWN.
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR PRAISE--
!
STILL... TO MARRY THAT KIND OF POWER TO THE DEDICATION NECESSARY TO ENTER THIS BATTLE...

YOU'VE REALLY PUSHED MY BUT-TONS, BRAT.
THINK YOU CAN COME IN WITH THAT KIND OF COCKY ATTITUDE AND DE-FEAT ME?
I AM INDES-TRUCTIBLE!
FUN AND GAMES TIME IS AT AN END, BOY. I'LL MAKE SURE TO TAKE BACK PLENTY OF PSYCHO-PLASM TO PAY-OFF THE ARM YOU JUST TOOK FROM ME.

GRG!
AND I'LL DO IT BY DEVOUR-ING YOUR WHOLE BODY!
I'LL MAKE SURE TO CHEW YOU INTO A PULP AND EXTRACT EVERY LAST OUNCE OF PSYCHOPLASM FROM YOUR CARCASS!
ghuff
ghuff
ghuff
!!
ghuff
tweeeee!

?!
GRARRR!
Agheee!!
MY WRIST!

MANGEE! SO YOU WERE LURKING ABOUT AFTER ALL!
Grrrrrr
ROUF!
CHEATS! ALL OF YOU!
WHEREVER I GO, MANGLER ISN'T FAR BEHIND.
I'LL REMEMBER THIS, ZOMBIE!
BASTARDS!!


EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!!
NEXT TIME WE CROSS PATHS, I'LL KILL YOU AND YOUR LITTLE BAND!
Iwuff
HEH. WE'LL BE WAITING WITH BATED BREATH, BO-BO!
HE'S A FRIEND. HE FIGHTS AT MY SIDE AS A COMRADE-AT-ARMS.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT. MANGLER'S NO ONE'S "WATCH DOG..."
THIS CREATURE YOUR WATCHDOG?
Iwuff
Iwuff

...AND EVEN THEN, NOT QUITE A WOLF. MORE LIKE A HALF-BESTIAL, HALF-HUMANOID WOLF.
HE'S NO DOG. MANGLER'S PSYCHOPLASM CONSCIOUSNESS IS MORE AKIN TO THAT OF A WOLF...
SO EVEN DOGS AREN'T SPARED BECOMING MALEBOLGIA'S SERVANTS.
WHY WOULD HE? HE'S JUST A DOG, AFTER ALL.
MANGLER'S GOT NOTHING TO SAY.
NOT SURE I'M FOLLOWING YOU.
HNNN.
...CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR BEING OBEDIENT.
WELL....
"LEND A HAND?" IF YOU'LL RECALL, I ONLY LENT A FEW WORDS. MANGLER LENT A...PAW...
EVEN SO...
...I COULD'VE SWORN YOU PROMISED NOT TO---

EEP!
PRAISE BE TO THE SAND DEVIL'S RETREAT.
WOLF.
THIS DOG JUST TALKED!
HEY!
YOU'RE ONE TO SPEAK OF ANOTHER'S ABILITY TO TALK, STUTTER-KIND. BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL NEW TO THIS, I'M USING THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO COMMUNICATE. CALL IT "TELEPATHY."
BUT...
...BUT...
...BUT...
NOT TALKING, EXACTLY. ANIMAL TONGUES AREN'T FORMED TO SPEAK IN HUMAN DIALECTS. HE'S TRANSMITTING HIS THOUGHTS DIRECTLY TO YOU.

FOLLOW ME.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON THESE ELEMENTARY MATTERS.
TELE-PATHIC DOG...
WOLF.
...I MUST TEACH YOU.
THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF THINGS...
USE BO-BO'S LIMB FRAGMENTS TO REPLENISH HER LOST PSYCHOPLASM.
MANGEE. PICK-UP OUR LADY PIRATE FRIEND, HERE AND BRING HER UP TO THE MANSION.
TEACH ME?
!

IS THERE EVEN ANY HOPE TO SAVE HER?
THIS WOMAN...
SHE DIDN'T GIVE A FEINT. DIDN'T TRY TO DODGE. JUST LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE AND SMILED.
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE HER REACTION TO MY PSYCHO-CANNON?
...SHE'D LOST HER WAY A LONG TIME AGO. SHE WAS LITERALLY LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DIE.
FOR ALL THE TOUGH GIRL ACT AND SMART MOUTH...

CONVENIENT DODGE OF MY QUESTION, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?
AS TO HOPE, HOW IS SHE ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE SAMURAI-KID?
THE KACHINAS... I CAN HEAR THE KACHINAS GROWING LOUDER BY THE DAY...
AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WHAT MORE CAN WE DO THAN GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT?
...IS FAST APPROACHING...
NOT FOLLOWING THIS--
...THE DAY OF RECKONING...
NOT IN THE LEAST.

MIXING WITH THE SCREAMS OF WAR FROM HELL'S OWN MINIONS.
THE HOPI INDIAN KACHINAS... HARBINGERS OF BATTLE... THEIR CACALIPHONY IS ESCALATING.
THE TIME GROWS NEAR.
DON'T GET RESTLESS, MY CHILDREN. SOON. VERY SOON.

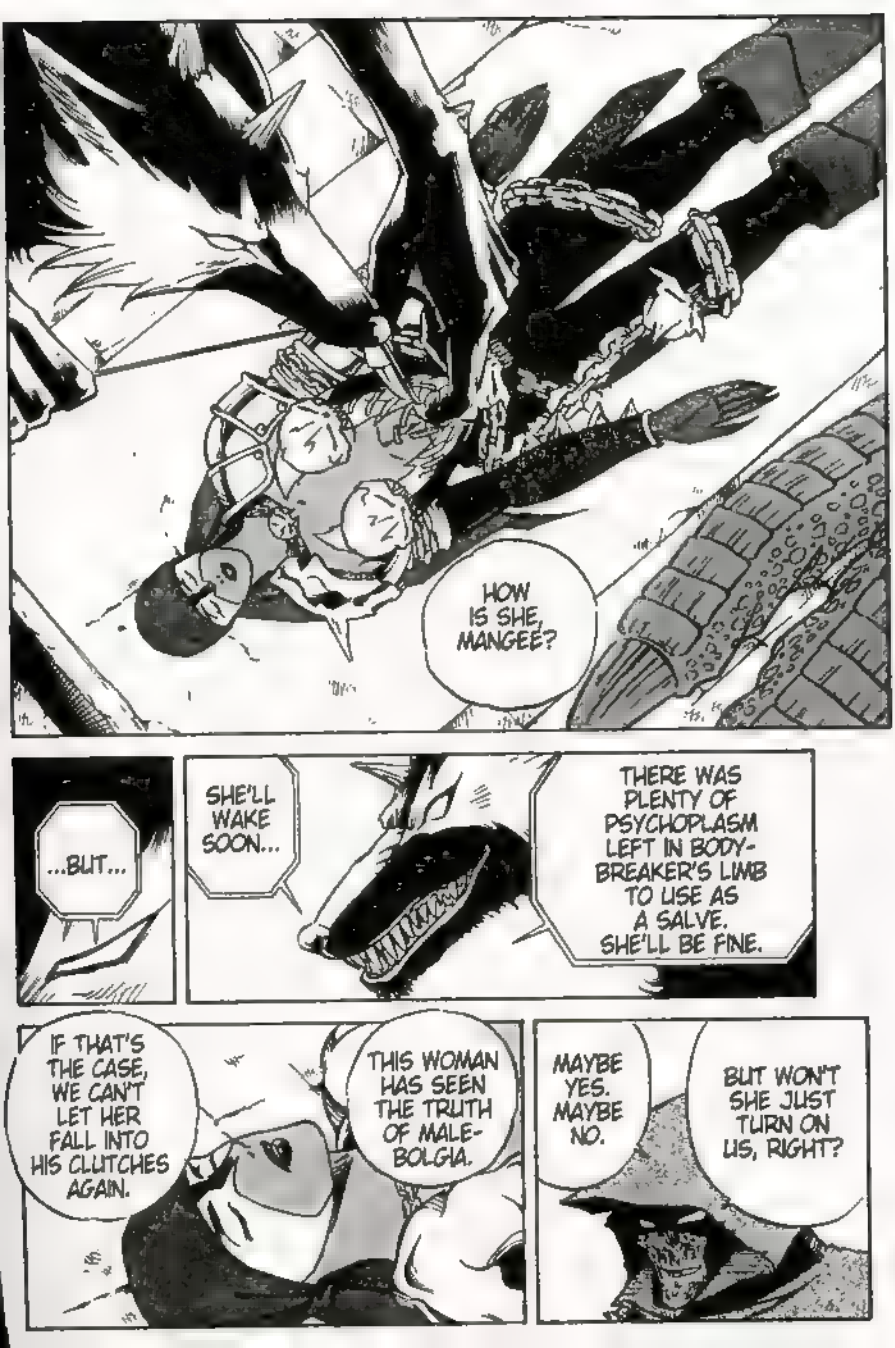
VERY SOON, IT WILL BE TIME!
...THEIR VOICES ALL INTER-MINGLING. I CAN NO LONGER TELL ONE APART FROM THE OTHER.
THE SONGS AND SCREAMS OF WAR...
...ENDLESS...
...DEAFENING...

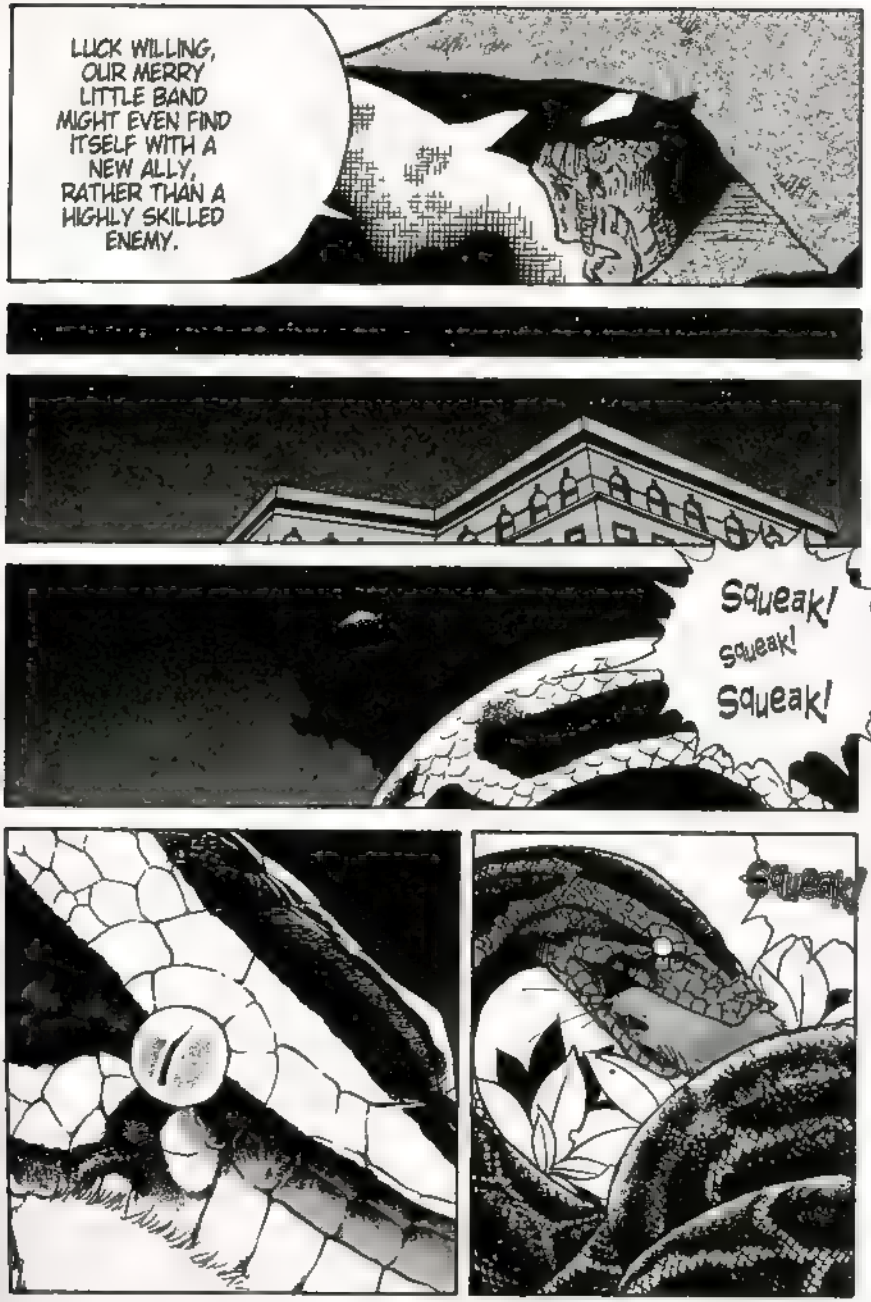
EPISODE.11 ACTRESS —女優—
...I NEVER PICTURED A MANSION LIKE THIS AS BEING THE HOME OF A SPAWN.
Y'KNOW...
THIS IS ALL TO MAINTAIN MY OUT-WARD APPEARANCE.
ALL THAT YOU SEE IS NOT FOR SAKE OF POMP AND CIRCUM-STANCE.
THINK IT'D DRAW UNWANTED ATTENTION, TO OUR EXISTENCE, RIGHT?
...APPEARANCE?
OUTWARD...
TO THE WORLD BEYOND THESE DOORS, I LEAD ANOTHER LIFE. AS A "HUMAN."
MY IDENTITY IN THIS WORLD ISN'T JUST THAT OF A HELLSPAWN.

THEY'RE AN EIGHTH GENERATION, FINE SILVER JEWELRY COMPANY.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE COCOPELI COMPANY?
COCOPELI
THEY'VE GOT A HUGE OFFICE BUILDING IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN.
COCOPELI? YES, I HAVE. THEY DEAL WITH ARTISAN, INDIAN STUFF, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, ALL OF THEM, ME.
THAT'S THE ONE. IN ITS 120 YEAR EXISTENCE, IT'S HAD ALL OF EIGHT C.E.O.S. ALL FAMILY RELATED.

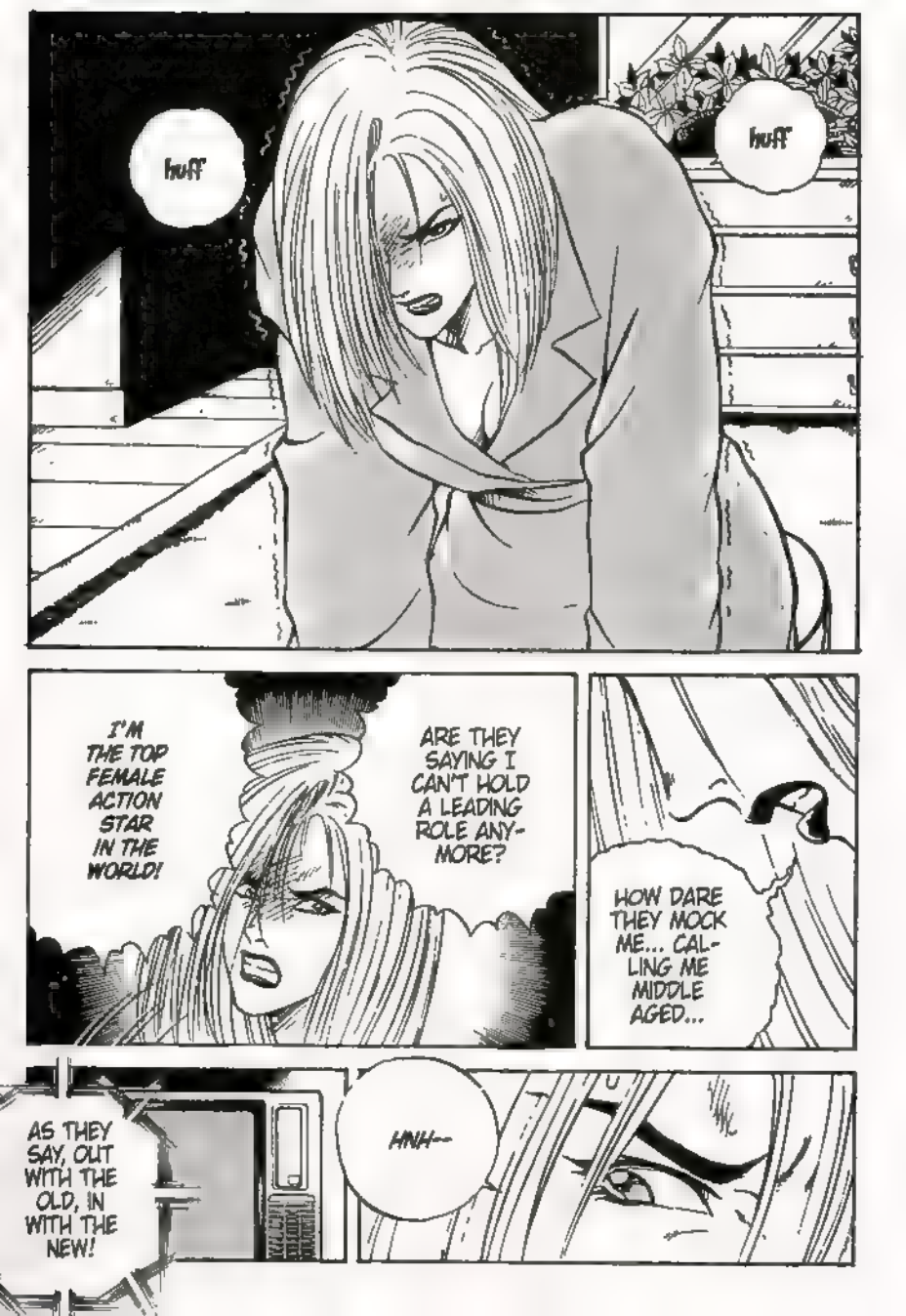
OVER TIME, HOWEVER, THOSE SAME "AMERICANS" SPURNED A TASTE FOR THAT WHICH THEY NEARLY MADE EXTINCT.
WHEN THE EUROPEANS CAME TO AMERICA, THEY ALL BUT DECIMATED THE INDIGENOUS INDIANS. ALL OF THEM.
QUITE THE CONTRARY, IT WAS DONE IN THE NAME OF SURVIVAL. WHILE MY CULTURE AND MY PEOPLE DIED OFF, THE LONGEVITY OF THEIR ART CARRIES WITH THEM THE SOUL AND PRIDE OF A ONCE GREAT PEOPLE.
NONE OF THIS WAS STARTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING MATERIAL WEALTH.
LISTEN WELL, YOUNG ONE.
TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF TAKING ON THIS BURDEN, YOU'LL BE PUTTING YOUR PRIDE ON THE LINE.
MY WILL... MY STRENGTH TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DEVIL STEMS FROM MY PRIDE. THAT OF MY PEOPLE. THAT OF MY SELF.
PRIDE.

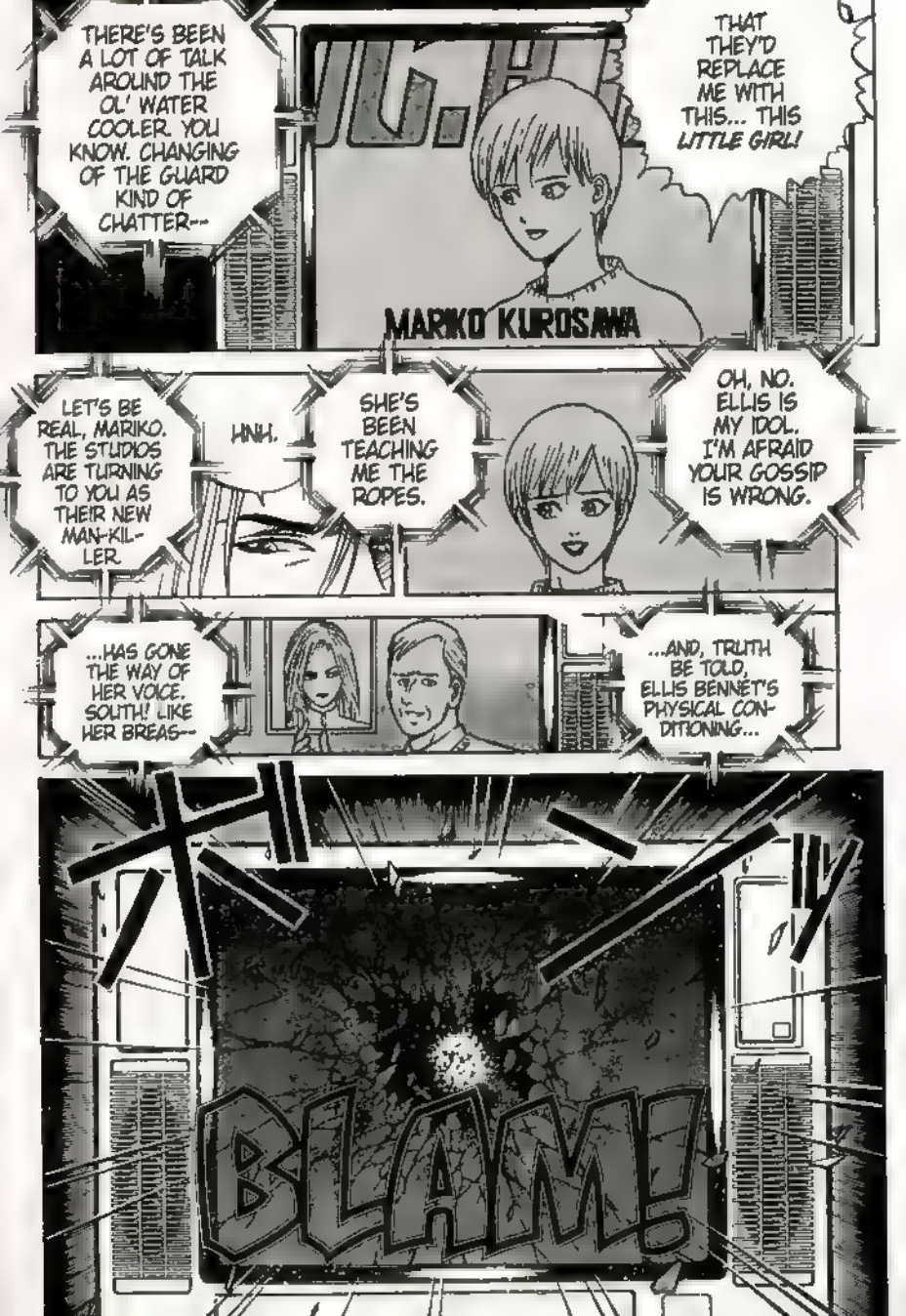
UNDERSTAND THIS FULLY BEFORE YOU CONSIDER JOINING THIS ETERNAL ENDEAVOR.
NOT JUST YOUR LIFE.
NOT JUST YOUR SOUL.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF YOU FIGHT FOR YOURSELF OR *HIM* SO LONG AS HE'S DEFEATED?
...?
swoosh
THE *REASON* FOR YOUR BATTLE IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE BATTLE ITSELF.
blip
VITH!
LIKE HER.
OTHERWISE, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR WAY. BECOME A SLIVER OF WHAT YOU USED TO BE.
THE REASON IS YOUR ANCHOR. IT'S WHAT WILL KEEP YOU WHOLE THROUGH IT ALL.

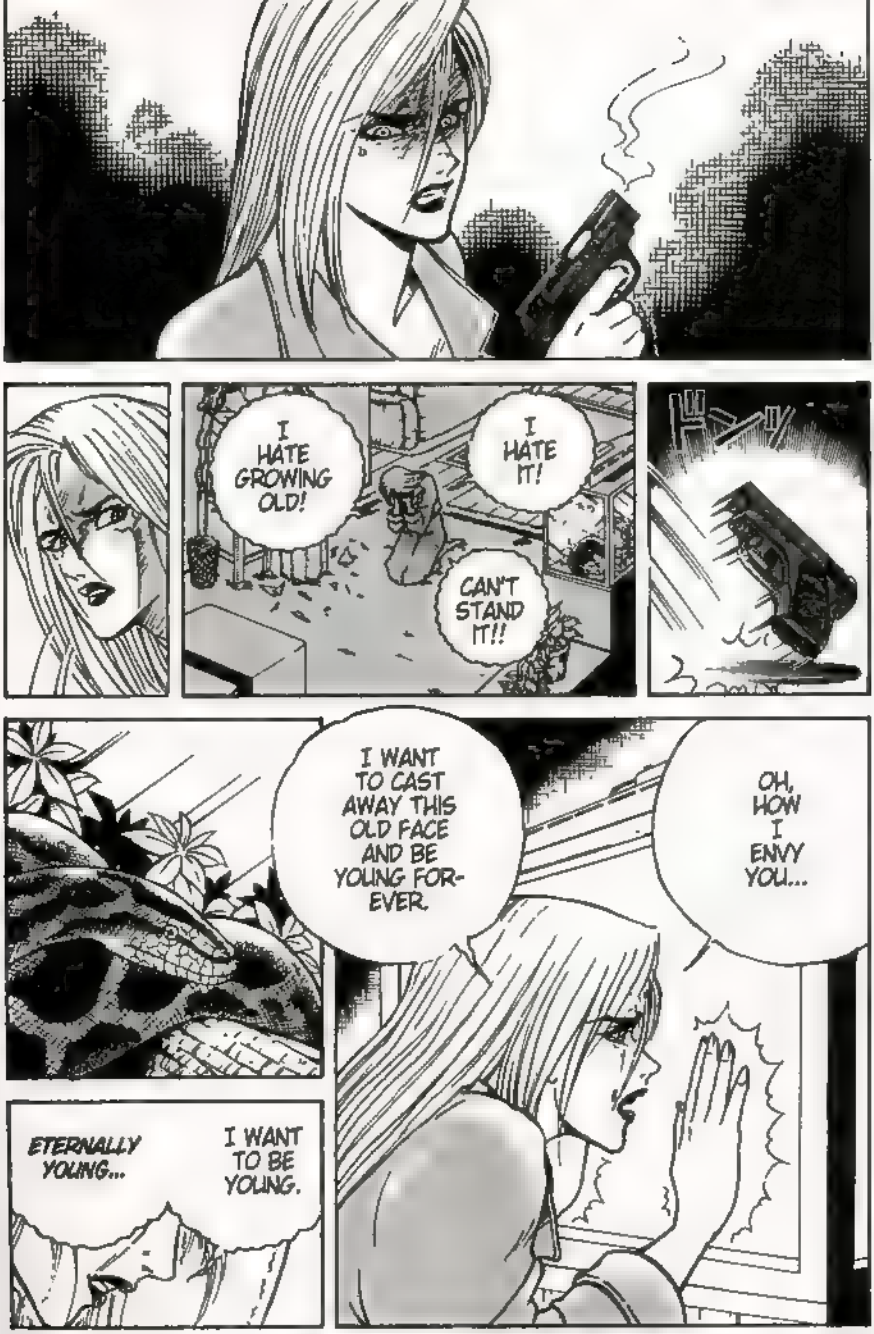

HOW IS SHE, MANGEE?
...BUT...
SHE'LL WAKE SOON...
THERE WAS PLENTY OF PSYCHOPLASM LEFT IN BODY-BREAKER'S LIMB TO USE AS A SALVE. SHE'LL BE FINE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE CAN'T LET HER FALL INTO HIS CLUTCHES AGAIN.
THIS WOMAN HAS SEEN THE TRUTH OF MALE-BOLGIA.
MAYBE YES. MAYBE NO.
BUT WON'T SHE JUST TURN ON US, RIGHT?

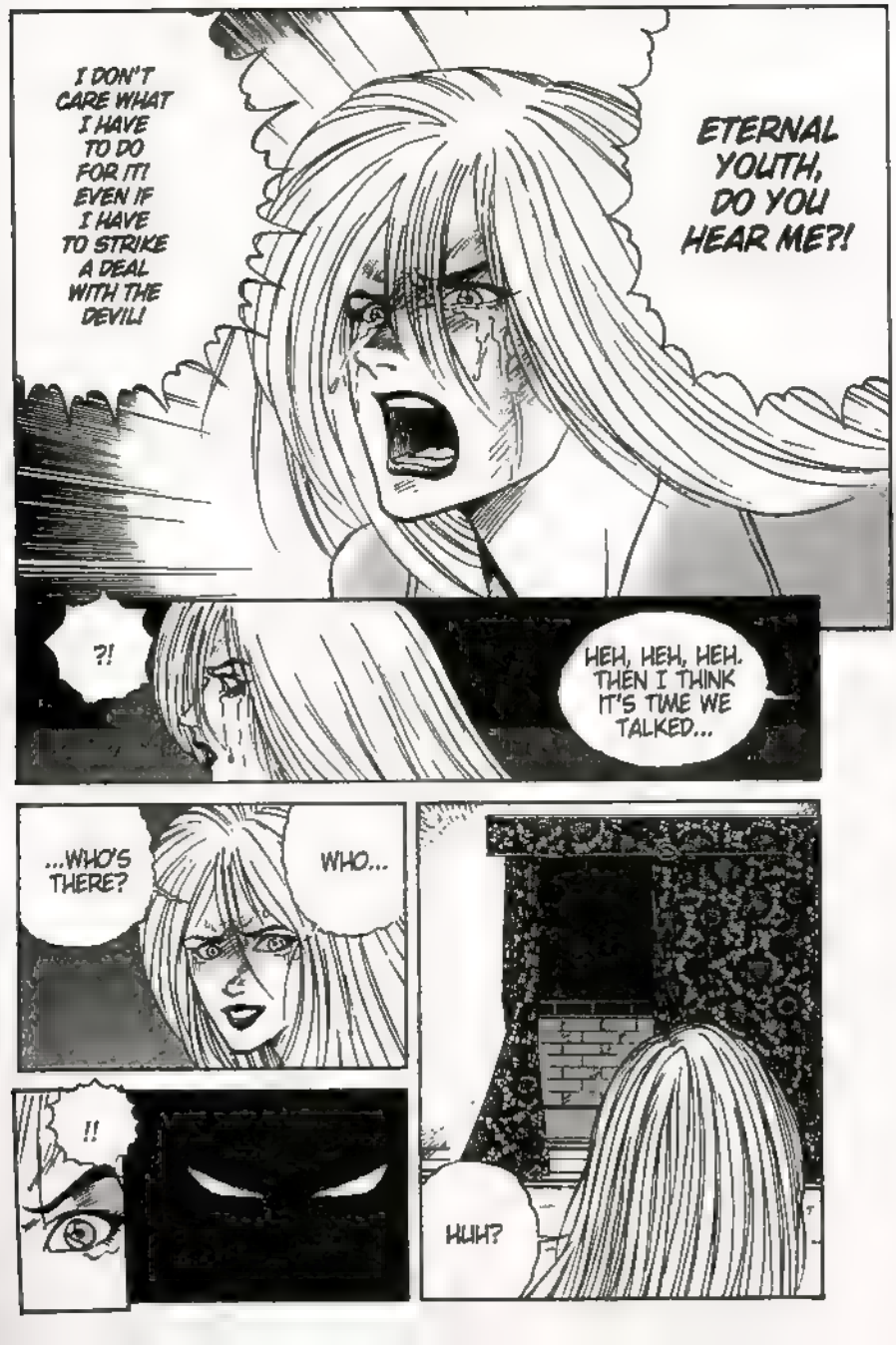

LUCK WILLING, OUR MERRY LITTLE BAND MIGHT EVEN FIND ITSELF WITH A NEW ALLY, RATHER THAN A HIGHLY SKILLED ENEMY.
Squeak!
squeak!
Squeak!
Squeak!

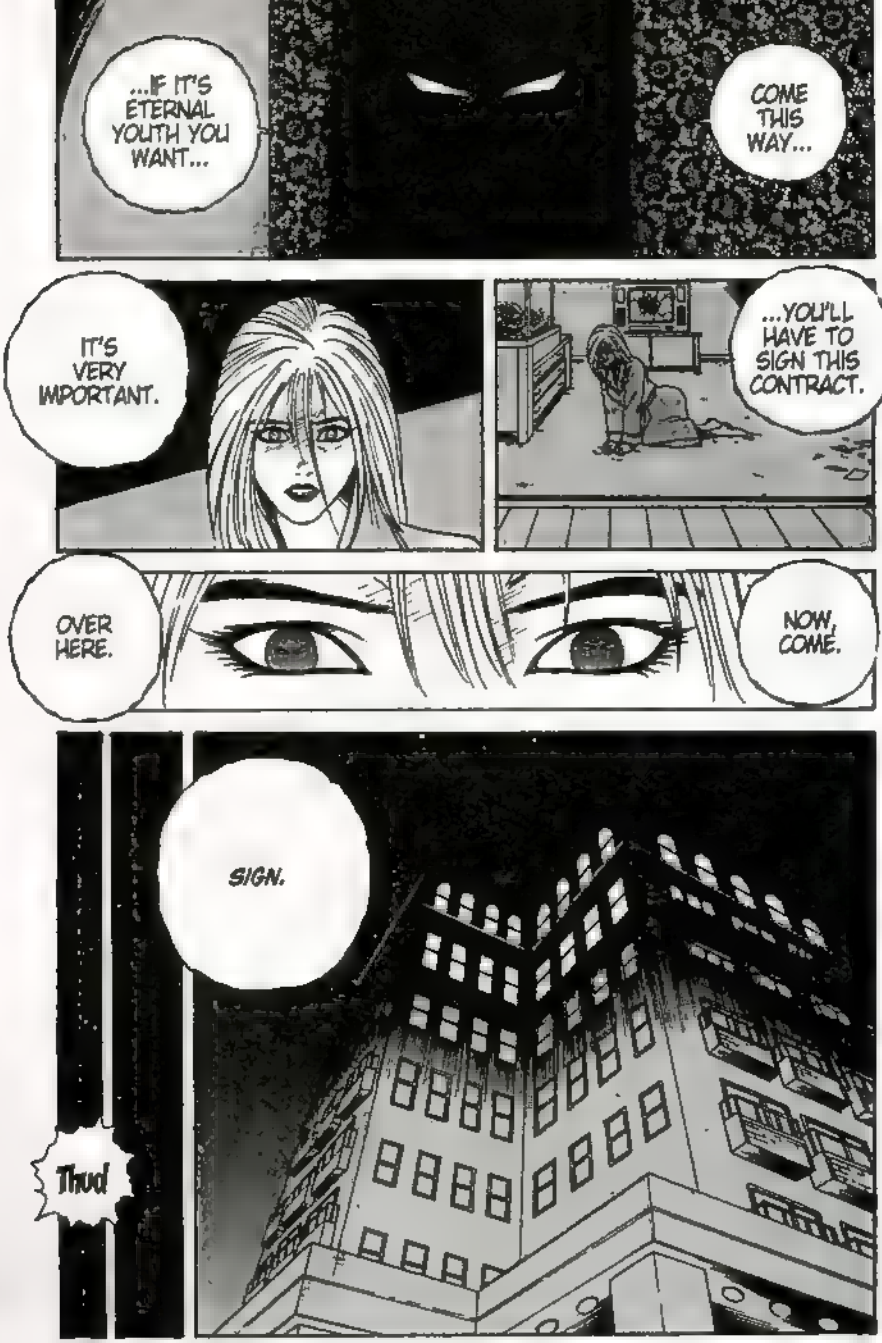
THE CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY...
COCO CHANEL


huff
huff
I'M THE TOP FEMALE ACTION STAR IN THE WORLD!
ARE THEY SAYING I CAN'T HOLD A LEADING ROLE ANY-MORE?
HOW DARE THEY MOCK ME... CAL-LING ME MIDDLE AGED...
AS THEY SAY, OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!
HNH--


THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK AROUND THE OL' WATER COOLER. YOU KNOW. CHANGING OF THE GUARD KIND OF CHATTER--
THAT THEY'D REPLACE ME WITH THIS... THIS LITTLE GIRL!
MARIKO KUROSAWA
LET'S BE REAL, MARIKO. THE STUDIOS ARE TURNING TO YOU AS THEIR NEW MAN-KILLER.
HNH.
SHE'S BEEN TEACHING ME THE ROPES.
OH, NO. ELLIS IS MY IDOL. I'M AFRAID YOUR GOSSIP IS WRONG.
...HAS GONE THE WAY OF HER VOICE. SOUTH! LIKE HER BREAS--
...AND, TRUTH BE TOLD, ELLIS BENNET'S PHYSICAL CONDITIONING...
BLAM!


I HATE GROWING OLD!
I HATE IT!
CAN'T STAND IT!!
ドン!!
I WANT TO CAST AWAY THIS OLD FACE AND BE YOUNG FOR-EVER.
OH, HOW I ENVY YOU...
ETERNALLY YOUNG...
I WANT TO BE YOUNG.

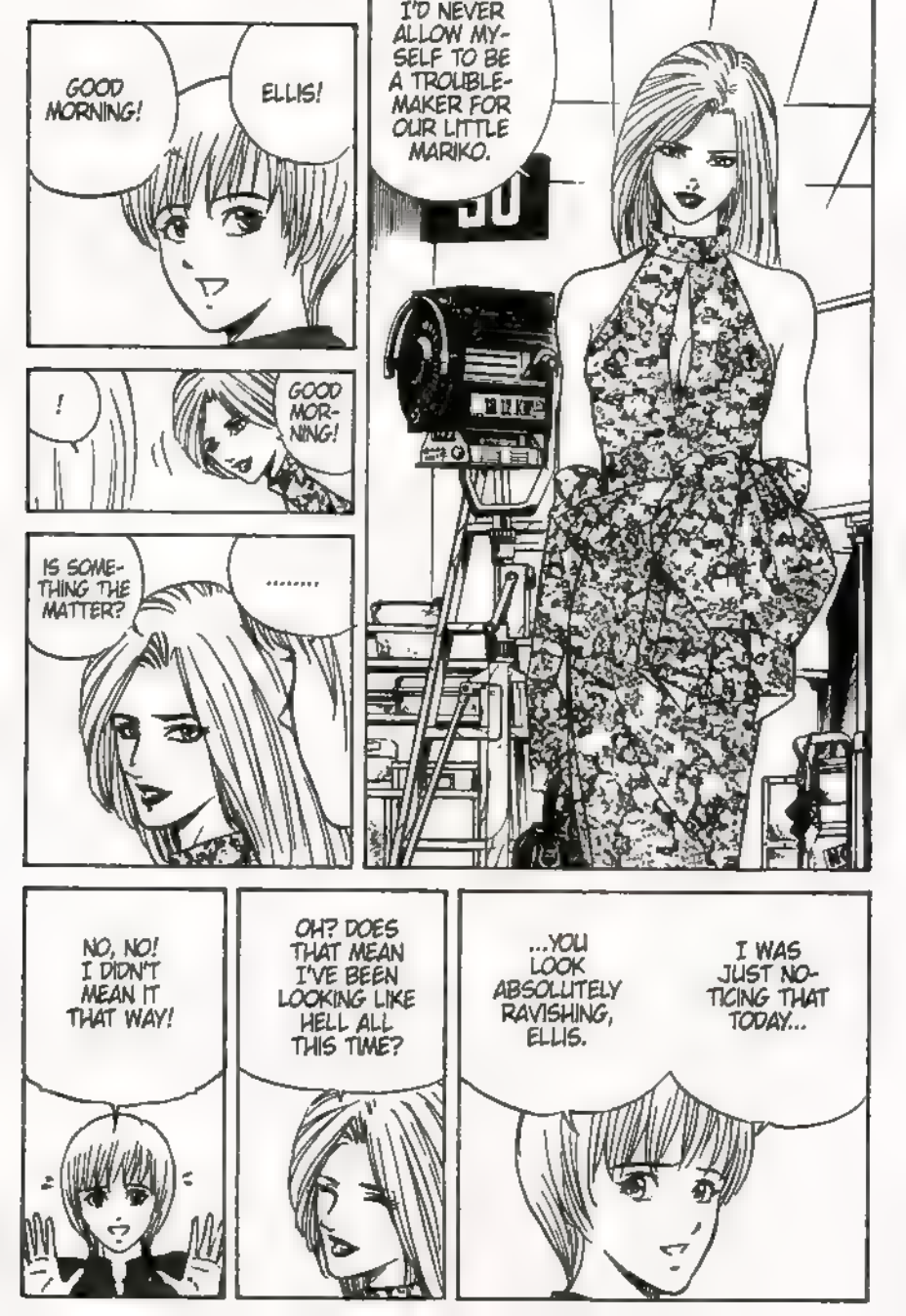

I DON'T CARE WHAT I HAVE TO DO FOR IT! EVEN IF I HAVE TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!
ETERNAL YOUTH, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
?!
HEH, HEH, HEH. THEN I THINK IT'S TIME WE TALKED...
...WHO'S THERE?
WHO...
!!
HUH?

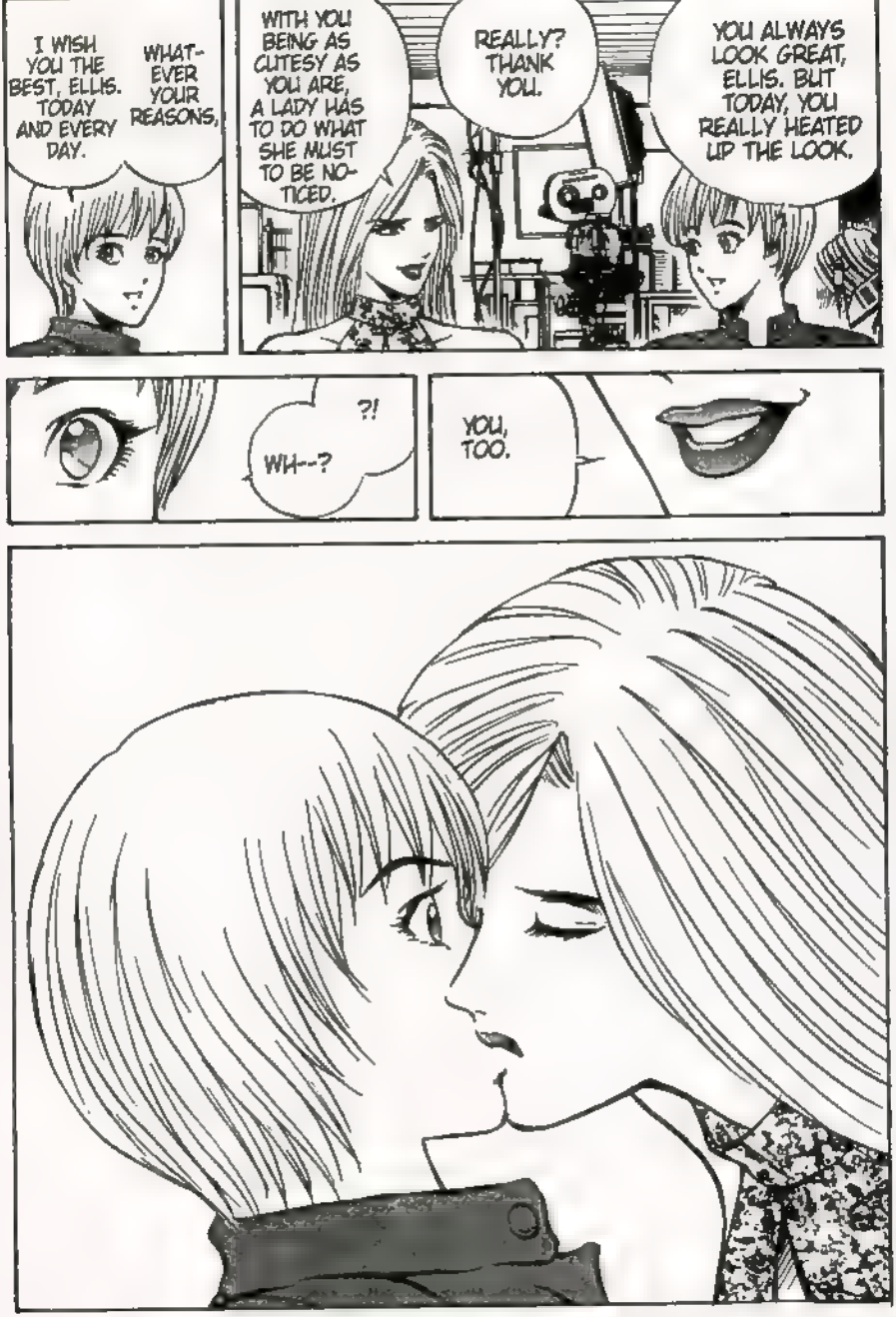

...IF IT'S ETERNAL YOUTH YOU WANT...
COME THIS WAY...
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
...YOU'LL HAVE TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT.
OVER HERE.
NOW, COME.
SIGN.
Thud

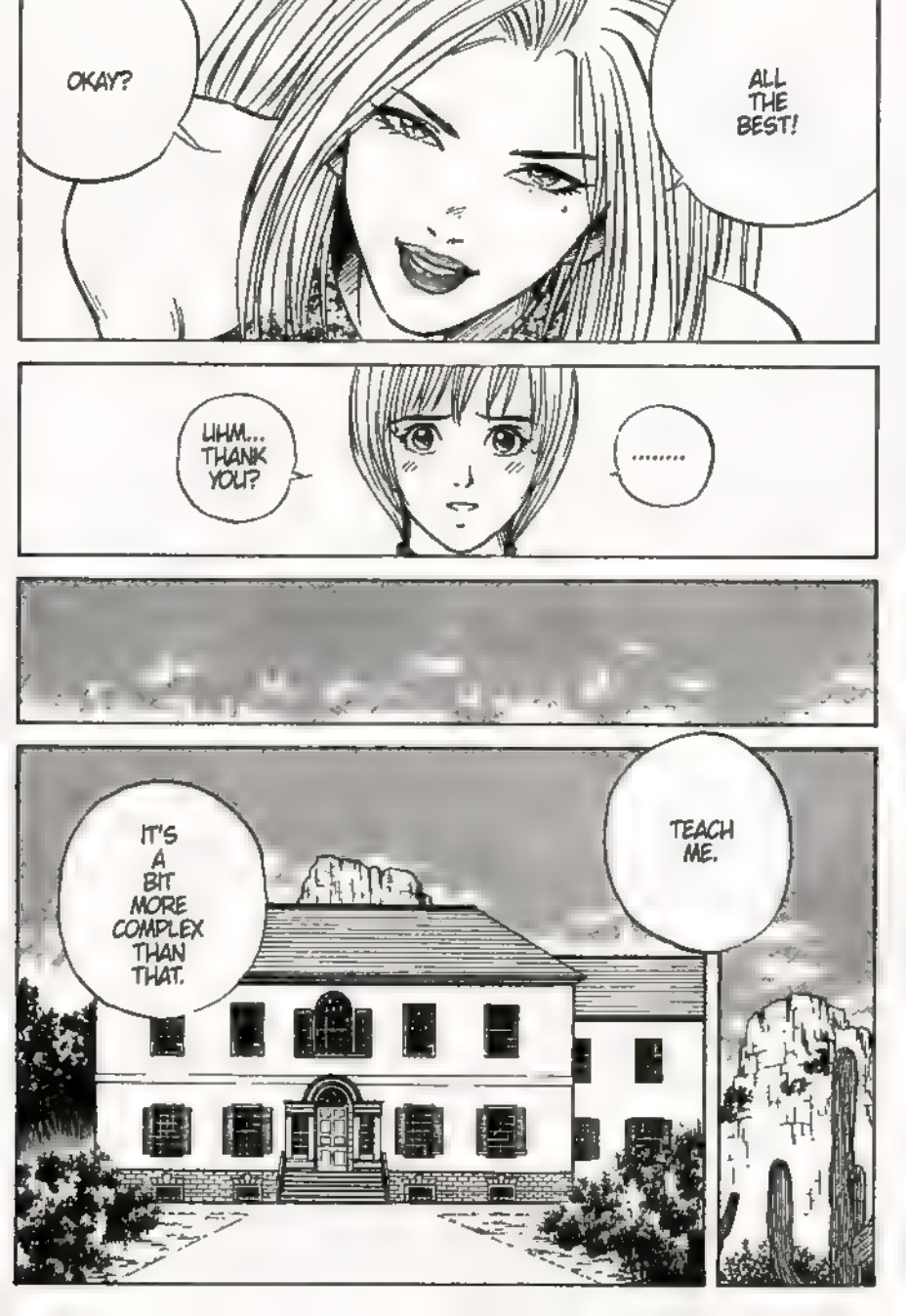
Heh! Heh! Heh!
>snicker<

ha-ha-
ha-ha
Gaaaaha-
ha-ha!
ha-ha-
ha-ha!!

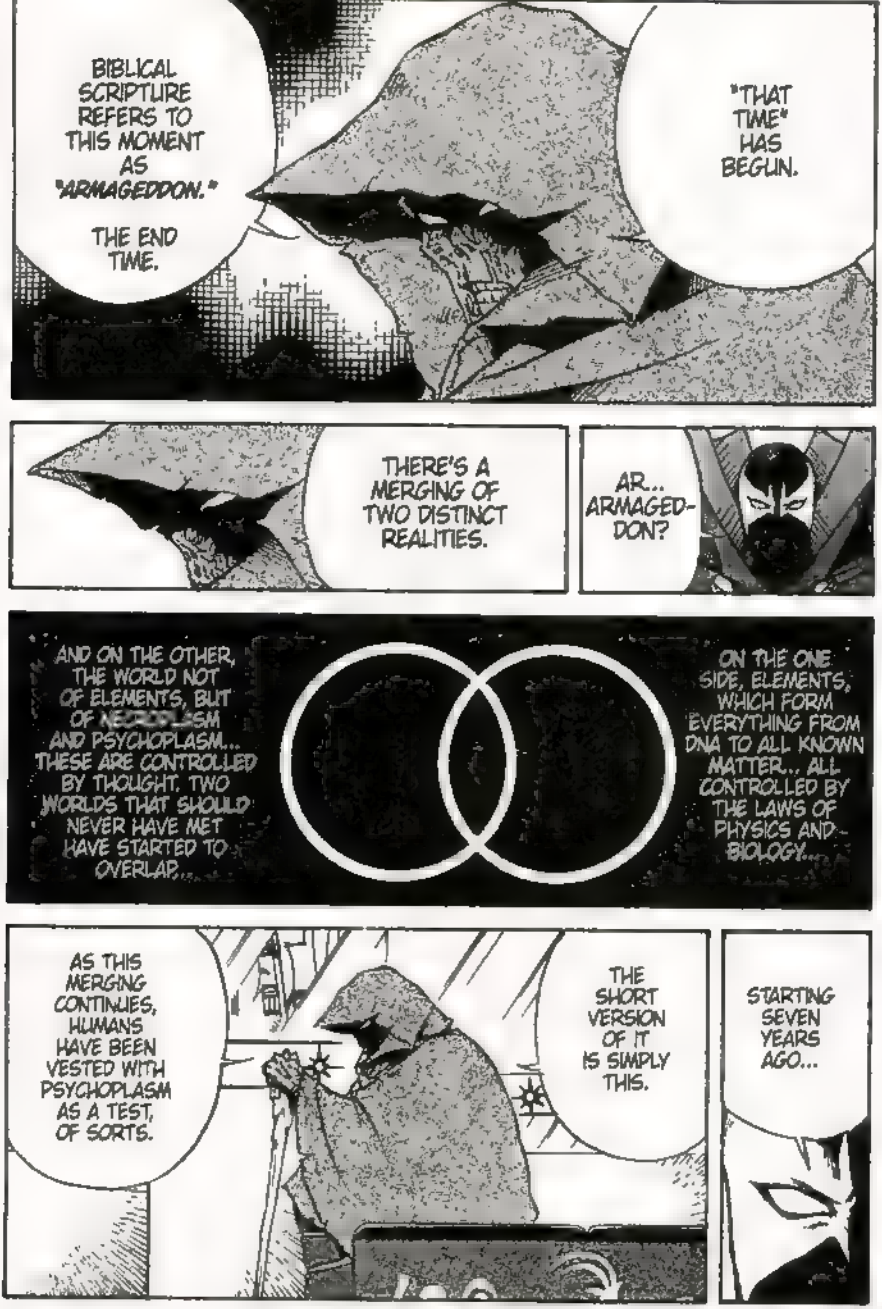
READY TO MAKE MAGIC, MARIKO?
OKAY, PEOPLE! WE'RE TURNIN' IT UP A NOTCH!
I SEE.
BUT FOR NOW, RATHER THAN SITTING AROUND WAITING TO GO, IT WAS EASIER TO JUST COME STRAIGHT TO WORK.
I KNOW.
WE HAD TIME TO TAKE CARE OF THE... "OTHER" THINGS.
...YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DOCTOR CARTER'S MURDER...
BUT CHRIS...
BE THAT AS IT MAY, THIS PROJECT IS A MURDER-MYSTERY. AND THAT "UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT" IS A PROPAGANDA FEST. OUR PRODUCERS ARE LOVING IT.
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M NOT ANYTHING OF THE SORT!
SHE'S RUNNING LATE--
WHERE'S ELLIS?
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M TALKING OUT OF LINE.


GOOD MORNING!
ELLIS!
I'D NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO BE A TROUBLEMAKER FOR OUR LITTLE MARIKO.
!
GOOD MORNING!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
.....
NO, NO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!
OH? DOES THAT MEAN I'VE BEEN LOOKING LIKE HELL ALL THIS TIME?
...YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY RAVISHING, ELLIS.
I WAS JUST NOTICING THAT TODAY...

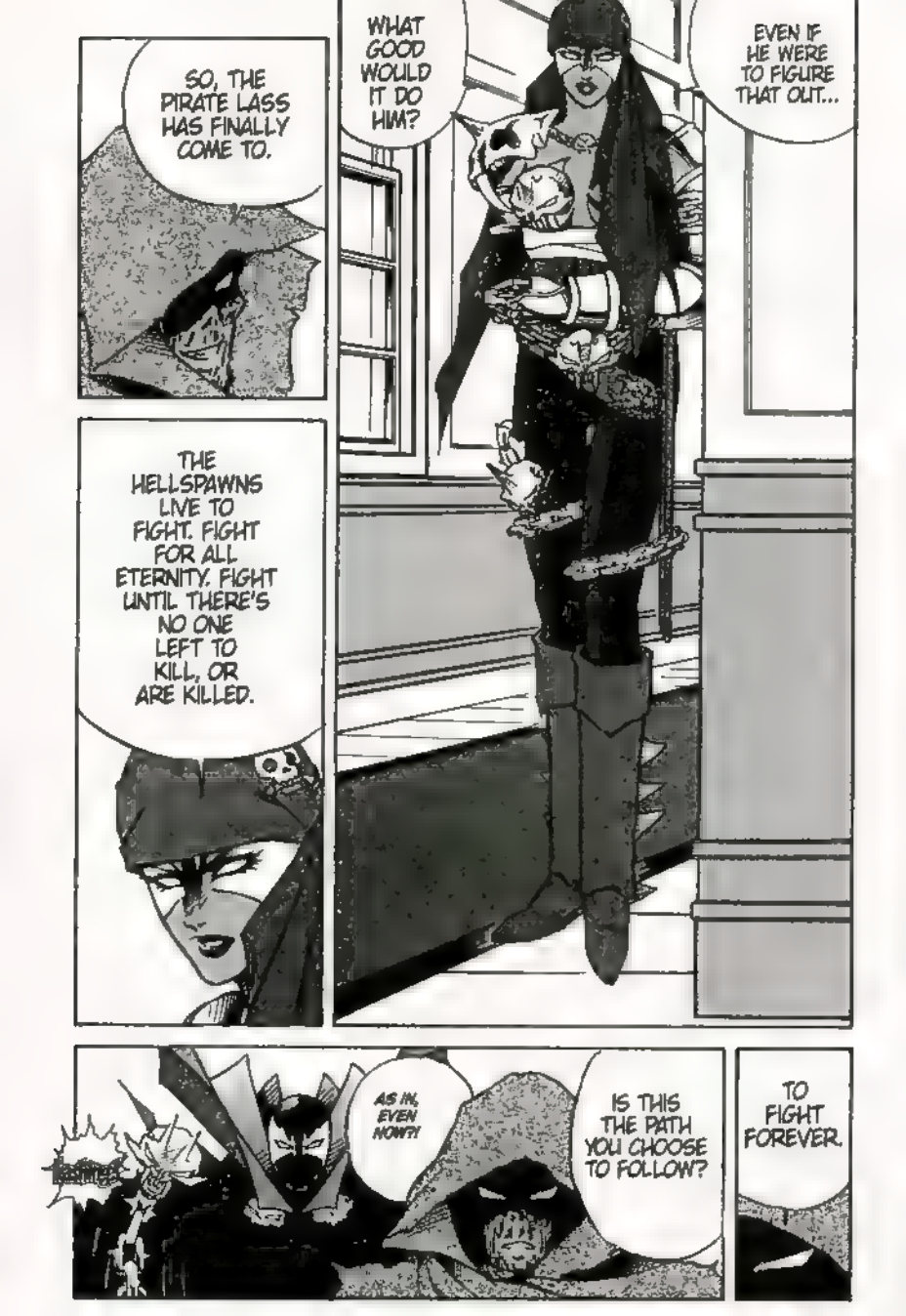

I WISH YOU THE BEST, ELLIS. TODAY AND EVERY DAY.
WHAT-EVER YOUR REASONS,
WITH YOU BEING AS CUTESY AS YOU ARE, A LADY HAS TO DO WHAT SHE MUST TO BE NO-TICED.
REALLY? THANK YOU.
YOU ALWAYS LOOK GREAT, ELLIS. BUT TODAY, YOU REALLY HEATED UP THE LOOK.
?!
WH--?
YOU, TOO.


OKAY?
ALL THE BEST!
UHM... THANK YOU?
.....
IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT.
TEACH ME.

WAIT...
...BEFORE THAT...
WHY ARE THE DEAD RESURRECTED INTO THIS FORM?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HELLSPAWN?
EXACTLY WHAT THE HELL KIND OF EXISTENCE ARE WE TRAPPED IN?!
IS THIS SOME SORT OF FANTASY WORLD? OR AFTERLIFE? ARE WE LIVING AMONG MYTHICAL CREATURES? OR ANGELS?
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE WORLD DURING THAT TIME?
I'VE BEEN DEAD FOR SEVEN YEARS.
THAT EVERY-THING IS A QUESTION TO A NEWLY BORN HELLSPAWN. ALL QUESTIONS, NO ANSWERS. A TERRIBLE MINDSET.
HEH. I SUPPOSE IT'S TO BE EX-PECTED.
THAT... "TIME."

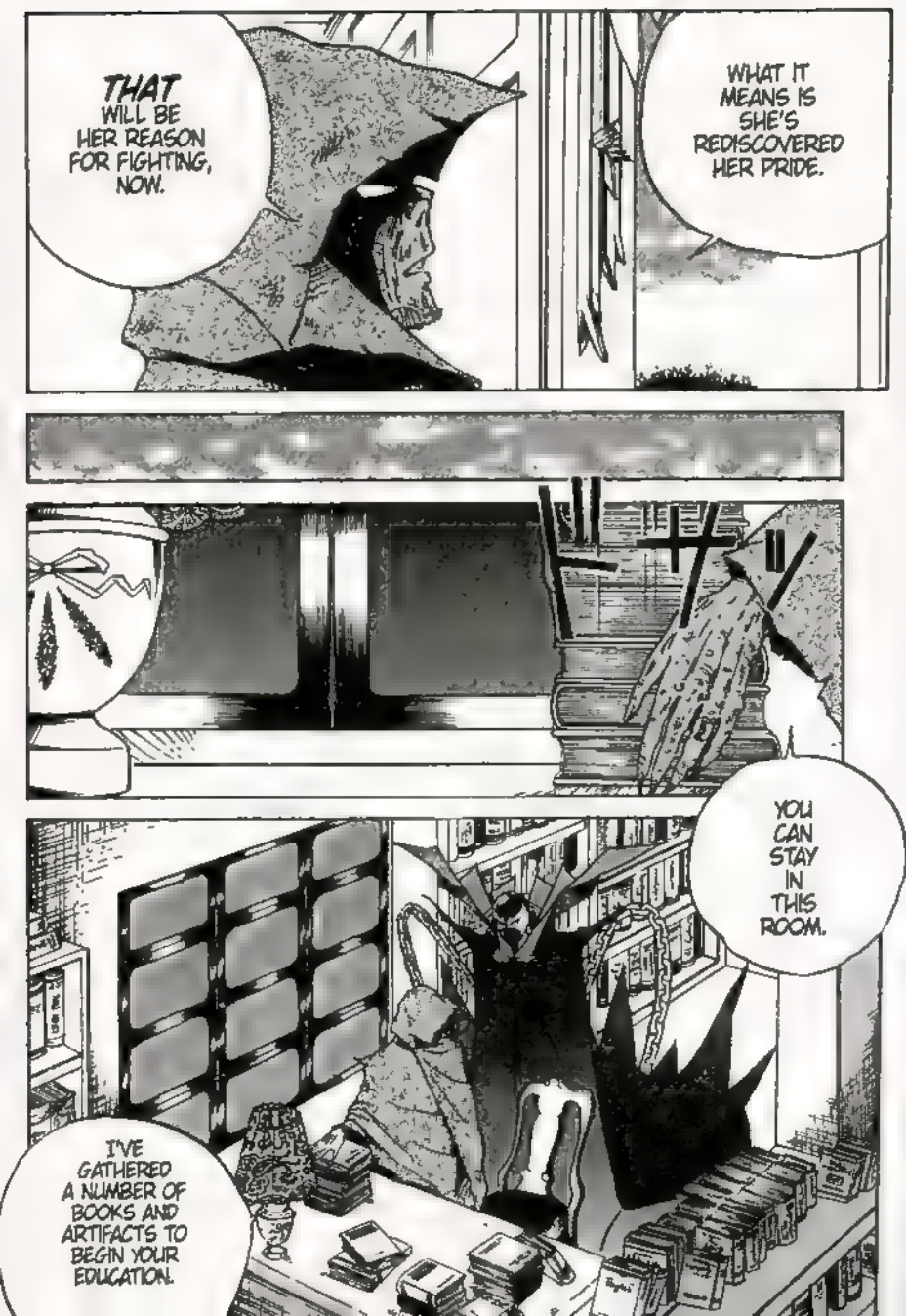

BIBLICAL SCRIPTURE REFERS TO THIS MOMENT AS "ARMAGEDDON."
THE END TIME.
"THAT TIME" HAS BEGUN.
THERE'S A MERGING OF TWO DISTINCT REALITIES.
AR.. ARMAGED-DON?
AND ON THE OTHER, THE WORLD NOT OF ELEMENTS, BUT OF NECROPLASM AND PSYCHOPLASM... THESE ARE CONTROLLED BY THOUGHT. TWO WORLDS THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE MET HAVE STARTED TO OVERLAP...
ON THE ONE SIDE, ELEMENTS, WHICH FORM EVERYTHING FROM DNA TO ALL KNOWN MATTER... ALL CONTROLLED BY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND BIOLOGY...
AS THIS MERGING CONTINUES, HUMANS HAVE BEEN VESTED WITH PSYCHOPLASM AS A TEST, OF SORTS.
THE SHORT VERSION OF IT IS SIMPLY THIS.
STARTING SEVEN YEARS AGO...

CAN'T BE HELPED.
SUDDING BY THAT LOST LOOK, YOU'RE NOT GETTING THIS.
WHAT?!
.....
FOLLOW ME.
THE FIRST STEP TO UNDERSTANDING ALL THAT IS HAPPENING, IS TO FIRST UNDER-STAND YOUR-SELF.
FIGURE THAT OUT, AND THE REST WILL START TO EXPLAIN ITSELF.
AND EVEN IF HE DID, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?


SO, THE PIRATE LASS HAS FINALLY COME TO.
WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO HIM?
EVEN IF HE WERE TO FIGURE THAT OUT...
THE HELLSPAWNS LIVE TO FIGHT. FIGHT FOR ALL ETERNITY. FIGHT UNTIL THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO KILL, OR ARE KILLED.
AS IN, EVEN NOW?!
IS THIS THE PATH YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW?
TO FIGHT FOREVER.

BUT--
REPRIEVE? YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
TODAY, YOU'VE GOT A REPRIEVE.
HMPH.
...IT MAY PROVE TO BE A FATAL MISTAKE.
AS TO YOUR SAVING MY LIFE...
ガシャア
ボオオ

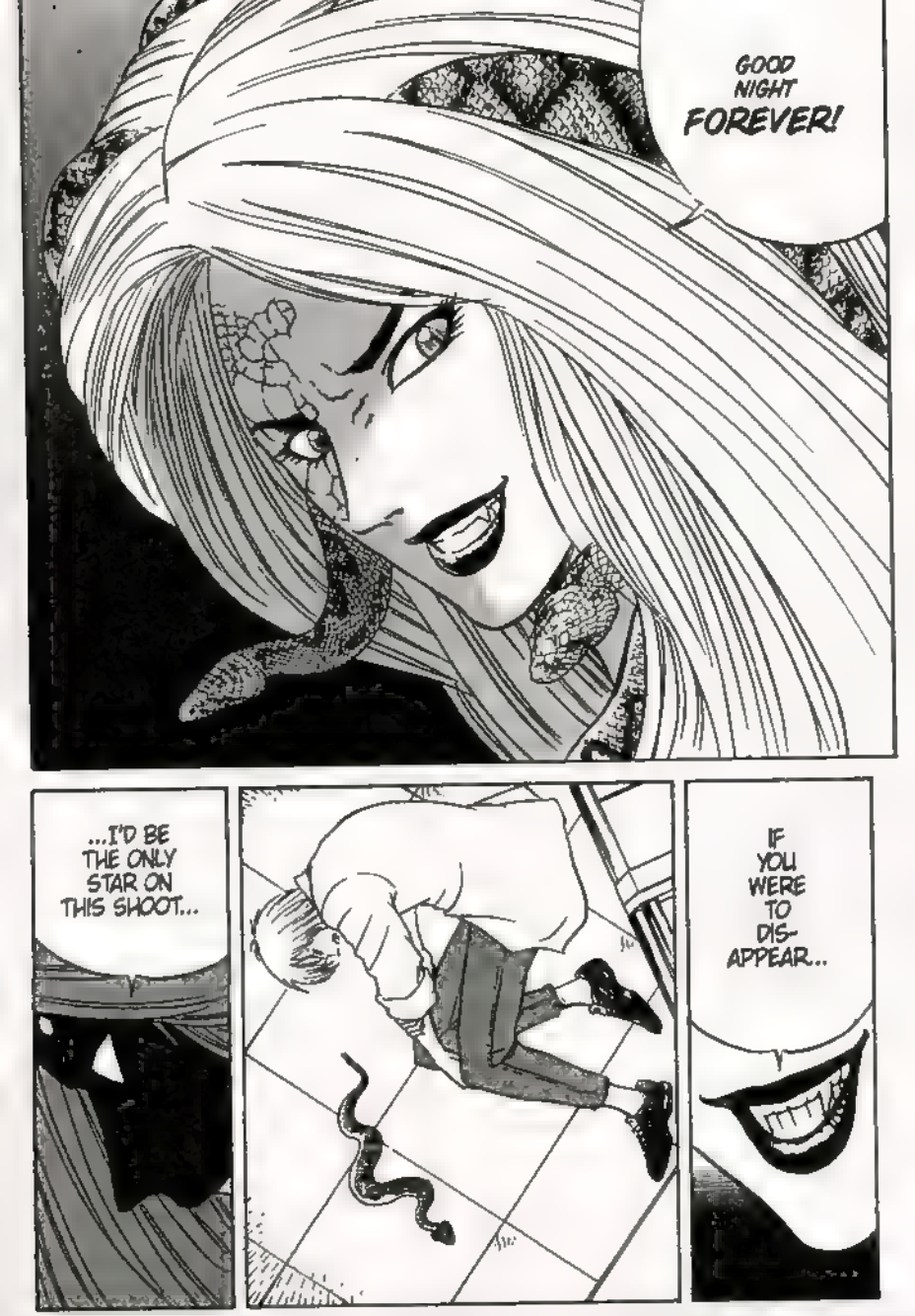
...TO OFF ONE OF THE ENEMY.
LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED THE CHANCE...
YOU THINK?
SHE'D NOT HAVE ANNOUNCED HER PRESENCE TO US. PROBABLY STRUCK FROM THE SHADOWS AT OUR BACKS. IN SHORT...
...WE'D BE DEAD.
IF SHE TRULY BELIEVED ALL THAT CRAP SHE JUST RECITED TO US, THIS SHATTERED WINDOW IS NOT WHAT WE'D BE STARING AT.
WONDER, INDEED.
HMPH. I WONDER.
IF I DIDN'T MISS MY GUESS, I'D SAY OUR PIRATE FRIEND GOT A DOSE OF THAT OL' CARIBBEAN PRIDE JARRED LOOSE.


THAT WILL BE HER REASON FOR FIGHTING, NOW.
WHAT IT MEANS IS SHE'S REDISCOVERED HER PRIDE.
YOU CAN STAY IN THIS ROOM.
I'VE GATHERED A NUMBER OF BOOKS AND ARTIFACTS TO BEGIN YOUR EDUCATION.

.....
I, UHM...
READ. LEARN. FILL-UP THAT HOLLOW SKULL OF YOURS WITH SOME KNOWLEDGE FOR A CHANGE.
YOU'LL SELF-STUDY IN THE BEGINNING.
THE PSYCHO-PLASM THAT MAKE-UP YOUR SUIT WILL ABSORB THE INFORMATION FOR YOU.
AND EVEN THEN, YOU WON'T BE MEM-ORIZING.
DON'T WORRY. YOU JUST NEED TO MEMORIZE.
YOU PROBABLY NEVER EVEN WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL, AM I RIGHT?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED. A BIG HIT AT PARTIES, TOO.
PSYCHOPLASM WILL DO THAT AS WELL?
LEARN HOW SCREWED-UP THE WORLD REALLY IS.
KEEP THESE T.V. MONITORS ON AT ALL TIMES.
WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE GOINGS ONS OF THE EVENTS AROUND US.

THANKS FOR THE EXTRA ASSISTS!
OH, ELLIS!
ARIKO
OSAWA
FOR EVERY-THING!
I WILL. THANK YOU!
MY SHOOT IS DONE, SO BREAK A LEG OUT THERE, OKAY?
ANYTIME!
WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT!
!!
OKAY, THEN.
GOOD NIGHT, ELLIS!

Kyaaaa!
GOOD NIGHT, LITTLE MARIKO.
!!

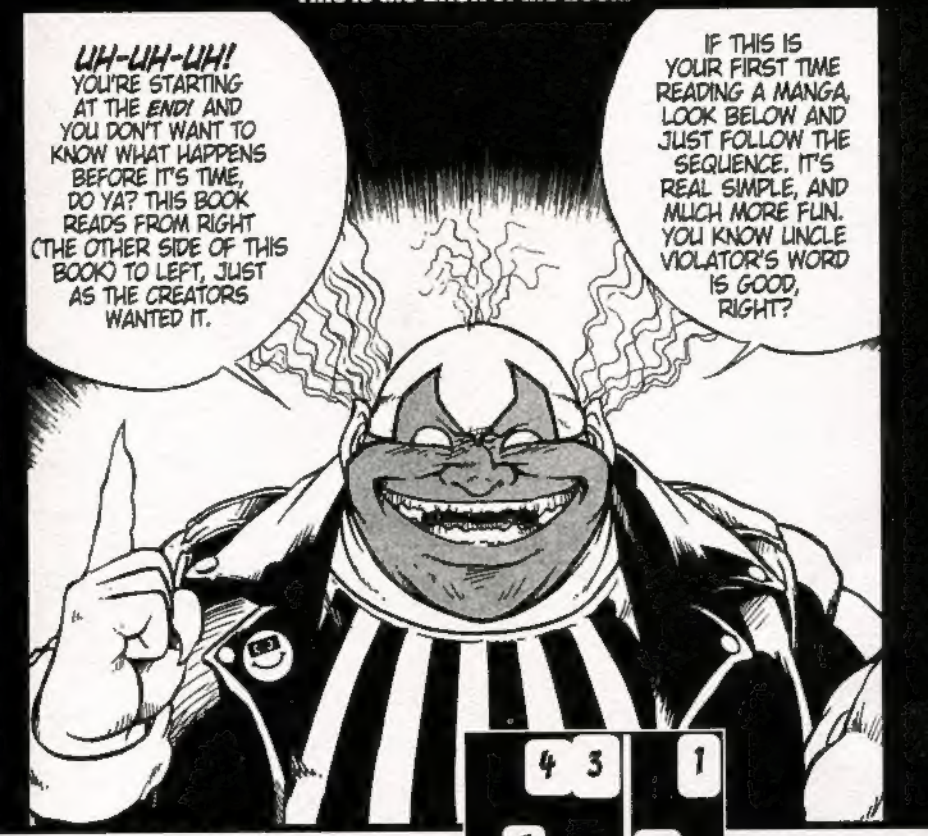

GOOD NIGHT FOREVER!
...I'D BE THE ONLY STAR ON THIS SHOOT...
IF YOU WERE TO DIS-APPEAR...

Ha!
HaHa
HaHa!

JUZO TOKORO
PRESENTS
SHADOWS OF
SPAWN
2

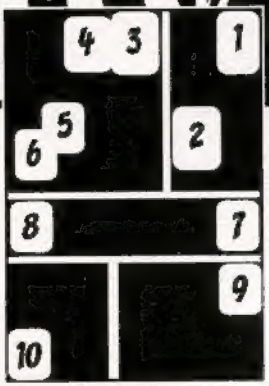
STOP!

This is the BACK of the book!


UH-UH-UH! YOU'RE STARTING AT THE END! AND YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE IT'S TIME, DO YA? THIS BOOK READS FROM RIGHT (THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS BOOK) TO LEFT, JUST AS THE CREATORS WANTED IT.
IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME READING A MANGA, LOOK BELOW AND JUST FOLLOW THE SEQUENCE. IT'S REAL SIMPLE, AND MUCH MORE FUN. YOU KNOW UNCLE VIOLATOR'S WORD IS GOOD, RIGHT?

DIRECTIONS:

PAGES ARE VIEWED, RIGHT TO LEFT. PANEL LAYOUTS IN A REVERSE "Z" SEQUENCE.



PAGE DETAIL

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MANGA!!!

Ken Kurosawa (aka "Double K") is a street smart thug-for-hire. His sole purpose for fighting is to be able to afford care for his ailing sister, Mariko. When Ken is killed by a car bomb, his dying wish is to be at his sister's side for her birthday and to take care of her, always...

Seven years later, Ken returns to Earth as a Hell Spawn. Angry, confused and constantly taunted by the cryptic Clown and the faerie-like Beelzebub, he learns that there is much more to death than simply dying...and that promises can be twisted to belie their good intentions.

So begins one man's search to rediscover his identity while adapting to a host of new abilities given to him by a "lower power." The mysteries of death are only the beginning of something far more dangerous.

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